

Shevardnadze in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Rebels rocketed the Afghan capital Kabul for the third consecutive day Sunday, killing at least nine people as Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze began a visit, the official Afghan news agency Bakhtar said. Hospital sources said 53 people were seriously injured. Bakhtar said at least nine died when 38 rockets slammed into Kabul where Shevardnadze, who had arrived unannounced, held two rounds of talks with President Najibullah. A United Nations official said the Durand district of the city, which houses the Soviet embassy and the Afghan Defence Ministry, was hit several times during the morning. It is from Durand that Afghan forces fire surface-to-air missiles at western-backed rebels fighting government troops in the eastern border areas with Pakistan. In the afternoon, at least 25 rockets landed within a kilometre of the Continental Hotel, Kabul's only luxury hotel and where many foreign journalists stay. In an interview on Soviet television after meeting Najibullah, Shevardnadze said major changes had taken place in Afghanistan since Soviet troops withdrew earlier this year.

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Kelly underlines Jordan's key role

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly arrived in Amman Sunday for what has been billed as an exploratory visit aimed at discussing Middle East peace prospects and the Israeli plan for Palestinian elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"I look forward to my conversations with the leadership of this country which plays such a vital role in all of the affairs of the region," Kelly said upon arrival at Marka airport.

Kelly, a former American ambassador to Lebanon, gave little substance in his terse statement, but underlined the importance he attached to the "experience and wisdom that I know I will find here with my interlocutors."

The U.S. official, on the third and final leg of a visit which has already taken him to Israel and Egypt, was holding what were described as "informal talks" Sunday night. He is expected to be received by His Majesty King Hussein, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker and Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem Monday.

According to an American source who preferred to remain anonymous, Kelly "wanted to get to know the people with whom he will be working" during the next four years.

Kelly's visit has drawn con-

trovery from Palestinian circles for not including any meetings with Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials. He met with Palestinian notables from the occupied territories earlier this week.

The encounter, during which the Palestinians rejected the Israeli plan for elections in the occupied territories to choose representatives for talks on "limited Palestinian self-rule" pending a "final solution" to the problem, was described by the Palestinians as an "extension" of the ongoing dialogue between the U.S. and the PLO — an assertion rejected by Washington, which says that the American ambassador to Tunis is the sole authorised channel of communicating with the PLO.

However, the 13 Palestinians who met with Kelly let no doubt about their loyalty to the PLO. In a petition handed over the U.S. envoy, they called on Washington to expand its dialogue with the PLO and ruled out any negotiations without PLO participation. One of the key topics in Kelly's talks with Israeli and Egyptian leaders was the U.S.-supported election plan, proposed by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir. The future of the plan, rejected by the PLO, is under question in Israel itself after Shamir's hard-line Likud bloc attached several preconditions to it but the Israeli coalition cabinet reaffirmed its endorsement of the plan in its original form.

Reports from Cairo said Egyptian leaders had told Kelly they



John Kelly

needed more information on the plan. Egypt, which has neither approved nor rejected the plan, "again specified it needed to know more and needed Israel to give a clearer picture concerning the plan," Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Meguid told reporters upon Kelly's departure from Cairo to Amman earlier Sunday.

President Hosni Mubarak met with Kelly Saturday. Among the clarifications that Egypt is reportedly seeking from Israel are whether the proposed elections could pave the way for a comprehensive settlement to the Palestinian problem, how free and democratic will be the election process and whether Israel would agree to international supervision of the polls.

Kelly is on his first visit to the region, after assuming office as assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern and South Asia — successor to Richard Murphy, the Reagan administration's Middle East "troubleshooter." Analysts in the region expected Kelly's

(Continued on page 2)

Jordan awaits Arab report on Lebanon

AMMAN (R) — Jordan said Saturday it would wait for a report from an Arab League peace mission to Lebanon before deciding whether to back Iraq's call for an emergency Arab summit on the war-torn country.

The mission, which included the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria, announced Monday that their efforts to help end Lebanon's civil war had reached a dead end.

The news prompted Iraq to call for an emergency meeting of the Arab League. But to date, only Egypt has backed Baghdad's call. "It is too early to take a decision on Iraq's call for a summit or on the (collapse of the) efforts of the Arab committee before we receive its report and evaluate it," a senior Jordanian official told Reuters.

The three foreign ministers said they would send Arab leaders a report on their findings and would leave it up to them to decide what should be done next.

Both the United States and the European Community (EC) have urged the Arab League committee not to abandon its efforts.

An Arab summit in Morocco in May gave Saudi Arabia's King Fahd, Morocco's King Hassan and Algerian President Chadli Benjedid a six-month mandate to try to end the fighting in Lebanon.



Thousands of Beirut residents flee the fighting in the Lebanese capital.

Syrians fortify W. Beirut

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Syrian tanks have taken positions in west Beirut and the surrounding hills and multi-barrelled rocket launchers buttressed the frontline along the Lebanese capital's dividing green line, according to independent reports Sunday.

The movement of armour came late Saturday night and Sunday morning, during which Syrian soldiers and Lebanese militia allies were engaged in fiery artillery duels across the Lebanese capital, reports said.

It was not clear Sunday whether the Syrian reinforcements were in anticipation of a possible invasion of west Beirut by forces led by army commander

Michel Aoun or a Syrian storming of the Aoun-controlled eastern sector of Beirut.

Both sectors of the city have been buzzing with rumours that Aoun's forces were planning to storm west Beirut, drive the Syrians out and seize Lebanon's central bank, where the nation's currency reserves are stored.

A police spokesman said the tanks, most of them Soviet-designed T-62s, rolled down the central Lebanese mountains from east Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, clogging traffic along the Beirut-Damascus highway.

They deployed on hills overlooking the capital's eastern side as well as the five-kilometre

green line that splits the city, spokesman said.

Dozens of multiple launchers that fire 40 rockets a minute were deployed in several neighbourhoods along the western side of the line.

The deadly, six-hour barrage also wounded 82 people in Beirut, the surrounding mountain villages and the Bekaa Valley, according to the police.

Two young girls evacuating Lebanon were drowned Sunday when the only ship regularly serving Lebanon's beleaguered Aoun-held enclave during Saturday's artillery battles.

Thirteen other passengers who

ended up in the water as shells fell around the Santa Maria were rescued, said a spokesman.

The Santa Maria's captain used a brief lull to dash out of Jounieh and sail to Larnaca, the spokesman said.

The coastal bombardment touched off night-long artillery duels that set fuel depots burning out of control in the port of Amsheet, 32 kilometres north of Beirut, the spokesman said.

The rattle of machinegun fire and the thud of artillery echoed across the capital, sending thousands of residents scurrying into underground shelters after a brief respite from Saturday night's battles.

Dinar firms against dollar in free market

AMMAN (R) — The Jordanian dinar firmed against the dollar on the free market Sunday after the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) began pumping in \$25 million to help stabilise the currency, dealers said.

They said the dinar was trading around 818 fils to the dollar, up from Saturday's widely quoted rate of 890 fils, after the Central Bank began intervening.

The Central Bank fixed the official rate at 583 fils, unchanged from Saturday.

A Central Bank official said Sunday the bank began selling some of the \$16.5 million it had

allocated for banks at 815 fils. It has told banks to sell the dollars to their clients at no more than 820 fils.

The official said the Central Bank also began selling another \$10 million to banks who have been told to sell them at the official exchange rate to finance imports of subsidised food stuffs, some medicines and fees of Jordanians studying abroad.

"We began receiving sizable amounts from the Central Bank which we are to sell at no more than 820 fils to cover private sector imports and other necessities. At the same time, we will sell dollars at the official

rate for the other key commodities," a dealer said.

"This move will definitely help stabilise the dinar on the free and official market at rates we think are reasonable," the Central Bank official said.

"We will continue our intervention every time we feel it is needed," he added. The measure came four days after Jordan received \$200 million in aid from Saudi Arabia.

Dealers said the move, an apparent effort to keep the dinar in a range of 815/820 fils, would succeed so long as the Central Bank continued its involvement.

They said they expected Gulf bankers, the main source of dollars for their banks, to start trading after a cautious week long break during which outside banks were unclear on how Amman's new two-tier exchange rate system would work.

Last week, the Central Bank established the two-tier system to curb a mushrooming black market and encourage Jordanian expatriates to send their dollars home.

It freed banks to trade foreign currency at market rates but told them they would use the official rate to finance key imports.

Firebomb hurled at Israeli patrol

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — An Israeli soldier was set briefly on fire when Palestinians hurled molotov cocktails at a patrol in Nablus in the occupied West Bank Sunday.

The incident in the West Bank's largest city broke a relative lull in the nearly 20-month Palestinian uprising.

Palestinians lobbed several fire bombs at the patrol in central Nablus before daylight Sunday, setting its 26-year-old commander alight, police said. He suffered moderate burns in the groin.

"There were apparently three or four petrol bombs, thrown from an alley, and one of them hit the driver's seat where the commanding officer was sitting," said the region commander, identified as Israel Radio as Lieutenant-Colonel Amos.

"We have closed the area and are continuing in our searches," he said. Police arrested several suspects.

The attack was the only reported incident Sunday. An army spokeswoman said violent Palestinian protests had dropped during the last two weeks to nearly half of what it was six months ago.

"There is a feeling that there is less violence and I know statistically it is true," said spokeswoman Ofra Preuss.

Preuss attributed the drop in incidents to a new army offensive against the uprising involving mass arrests and surprise raids on villages in the past three months, and to "fatigue" among Palestinians hit hard economically by the revolt.

Palestinians said confrontations with Israelis, characteristic of the uprising, were reduced because West Bank residents were eager to see their schools —

allowed to reopen on July 12 for the first time this year — to hold classes.

"I think people are consciously trying to reduce the violence because of the schools," said Palestinian commentator Daoud Kuttub.

"Also there is more concern over the political issue... my impression is that the political discussion has predominance," he said.

Sunday's firebomb attack followed a night march by some 60 khaki-uniformed and masked Palestinians, who raised a Palestinian flag and called through loudspeakers for uniting Palestinian factions under the mainstream Fatah wing, Arab journalists said.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah and nearby Al Bireh, a commercial strike was reported. Palestinian journalists said the

strike came after an underground "unified merchants' committee" distributed a leaflet urging a protest against Israeli tax raids.

Non-payment of taxes is one of the major tactics in the rebellion. "The enemy has launched a cowardly economic war against the merchants and we have to resist it by collectively refusing to pay taxes," the leaflet said.

In another development, a police spokesman said an arson attack on a Jewish-owned house in the old city Saturday night was a "nationalist" assault.

Spokesman Avi Zelba said the house was heavily damaged when the assailants broke in, poured flammable material and lit it. No injuries were reported.

"It certainly was done with a nationalist motive," he said. Zelba said police detained seven Palestinians as suspects in the arson but released them.

minimal, however, and Arafat need not oppose a resolution saying armed struggle was legitimate, as this remains the theoretical position of all PLO factions, delegates said.

Fatah officials said none of the 10 members of the current Central Committee was likely to lose a seat in elections on Sunday, especially those who helped Arafat create Fatah in Kuwait in the late 1950s.

The vacancies arose through three assassinations and two expulsions.

The officials said three other members would later be co-opted onto the Central Committee, bringing the membership up to 18, the statutory maximum.

allow those already expelled to return.

The second condition was the release of Obaid, "150 prisoners of the national Lebanese and Islamic resistance movement and 300 prisoners from the Palestinian intifada."

It said the 300 would be divided evenly between the Muslim fundamentalist group Hamas, the Islamic Jihad movement and the United Leadership of the Uprising. They would be chosen in discussions with Israel.

The handwritten statement, which made no mention of captive Israeli soldiers, thanked all parties, especially Syria, which had contributed to what it called the success of diplomatic efforts.

Israeli officials, however, warned that Obaid would be freed only as part of a deal that includes freedom for all captive Israeli soldiers.

The statements came amid concern that momentum was building towards separate deals that could provide for the release of 17 Western hostages but exclude three Israeli servicemen held cap-

with the outside world, has offered Washington help in freeing its hostages.

Massoud Rajavi, leader of the dissident Iranian Mujahideen Khalq, said the confirmation of Khamenei by the Assembly of Experts showed a power struggle was underway.

"Otherwise there would have been no need for such a barrage of ridiculous confirmations," he said.

"These absurd moves show the puppet role being played by Khamenei as leader and also amount to an admission... that his previous selection as leader and all the decrees he has issued so far were illegal," he said.

idency, abolishing the post of prime minister.

Khomeini, who held spiritual sway over millions of Shi'ite Muslims, was said to have twice recommended Khamenei, 50.

Mohtashemi is known to oppose Rafsanjani on the handling of the Lebanese hostage crisis and other issues.

Hours before the kidnappers of U.S. hostage William Higgins said Monday they had hanged him, Mohtashemi urged Lebanese militiamen to take revenge of the U.S. and Israel for Israel's seizure of a Hizbollah cleric.

Rafsanjani, regarded as a pragmatist who wants to improve ties

allow those already expelled to return.

The Revolutinary Justice Organisation issued a statement saying it had received a positive response to its demand on Thursday that Israel release Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners.

The statement, accompanied by a photograph of another U.S. hostage held by the group, Edward Tracy, said its "initiative" was going ahead "following encouraging regional developments promising happy endings to the hostage problem."

The group threatened to kill Ciccipio last week unless Israel freed Obaid.

It suspended the threat at the last minute on condition that Israel replied "within days" to a demand that Obaid and other prisoners be freed. It said then it would give the Red Cross a list of the prisoners.

The statement said Sunday the first condition for the freeing of Ciccipio, kidnapped in September 1986, was that Israel halt its expulsions of Palestinians and

Fatah poised to endorse uprising strategy

TUNIS (R) — The mainstream Palestinian Fatah movement was set on Sunday to endorse the strategy of using the Palestinian uprising as a lever for an independent state alongside Israel.

The Fatah general congress in Tunis, its first meeting at this level since one in Damascus nine years ago, was also to elect new, younger leaders to dilute the influence of the core that founded the movement 30 years ago.

Organisers have kept the congress out of the public eye and little information has filtered out of the tightly-guarded conference all where more than 1,100 delegates have been meeting since Thursday.

Fatah leader and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), said armed struggle was a constant theme in speeches, especially by those vying for five vacant seats in the Central Committee.

Armed struggle remains an emotive issue in the Palestinian movement, despite evidence that the intifada in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip has done more for the Palestinian cause in 20 months than 20 years of guerrilla raids.

In a headline commentary on the congress, the PLO news agency Wafa said delegates believed unanimously that "armed struggle is still, in the face of intransigence and the continuing (Israeli)

occupation, the only way to victory."

In his keynote opening speech Thursday, Arafat defended the armed struggle of the past and, without renouncing it for the future, said there was no going back on the intifada and diplomatic initiative which it made possible.

Political resolutions, expected late Sunday, were to show how far Arafat has succeeded in bringing Fatah grassroots fully behind this strategy.

Arafat is often criticised for taking personal initiatives and many Fatah members have been asking what he has achieved by recognising Israel and calling off military operations.

Pressure for resumed attacks is

minimal, however, and Arafat need not oppose a resolution saying armed struggle was legitimate, as this remains the theoretical position of all PLO factions, delegates said.

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فلسطين للأهل

Gold-stuffed coffin unearthed in Iraq

BAGHDAD (AP) — A stone coffin filled with gold jewellery was unearthed by archaeologists in the ancient Assyrian city of Nimrud, the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

It was the second discovery of a gold-laden burial in Nimrud this year.

The agency quoted Muzad Saeed, Iraq's director of antiquities, as saying the find included "hundreds of gold ornaments and pieces of jewellery."

He said they were believed to belong to Queen Nini Shomi Marmari, the wife of King Ashurnasirpal II, who ruled from 884-858 B.C.

The coffin, or sarcophagus, was found at a depth of four metres and tablets in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing also were associated with the royal burial, Saeed said.

Nimrud, the military capital of the ancient Assyrian empire that stretched from the Gulf to the Mediterranean, is located about 40 kilometres south of the northern Iraqi city of Mosul.

In April, Iraqi archaeologists unearthed a stone chamber at Nimrud that contained the burials of two women accompanied by more than 25 kilograms of gold jewellery, the richest such find ever made.

A stone inscription in the tomb in wedge-shaped cuneiform writing identified the women as Yabaya and Taliya, possibly the daughter and grand-daughter of King Sargon, who ruled Assyria in the 8th century B.C.

The inscription also laid a curse on anyone who opened the burial chamber.

"If anyone lays his hands on my tomb or opens my grave, I pray to the gods of the nether world that his soul should roam in the scorching sun after death ... let the ghost of insomnia take hold of him for ever and ever," it said.

The gold jewellery included diadems, necklaces, belts, bracelets and anklets, and 50 pairs of earrings, as well as a bronze mirror with an enamel handle encrusted in precious stones.

Theologian on trial in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — A blind Muslim theologian, charged with inciting violence, went on trial in Cairo Sunday accusing the government of making up the charges against him and his followers.

Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman, 51, on trial with 54 of his followers, faces a life sentence with hard labour if convicted. All defendants have pleaded not guilty.

Several are accused of hurling a home-made bomb at a Theatre in the oasis town of Fayoum southwest of Cairo and injuring a police officer.

Others, including Abdul Rahman, are on trial for allegedly inciting and taking part in anti-government demonstrations and attacking people and public property.

Fourteen, including 11 juveniles, are charged with distributing anti-government leaflets and resisting arrest.

Lawyers said four of the defendants, who started a hunger strike five days ago, did not attend the opening of the trial.

Abdul Rahman is seen as the spiritual leader of the outlawed radical Jihad organisation.

Israel willing to talk to kidnappers, but not PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's determination to negotiate a hostage swap with kidnappers in Lebanon contrasts with its refusal to talk with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) because it is a "terrorist" organisation.

Israel has proposed exchanging about 150 Lebanese and abducted Hizbollah cleric Sheikh Abdul-Karim Obeid for three of its soldiers and 17 Western hostages believed held in Lebanon.

Despite Israel's oft-repeated vow never to capitulate to "terrorism," its policy of dealing with anyone to secure the release of captured Israeli soldiers is not new — it has even cut deals with the PLO.

It is a policy that unites Israeli leaders left and right.

"For us the saving of even one of our people is a fundamental principle," hardline Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir told a Jewish gathering at the start of the weekend.

In 1983 Israel freed 4,600 Palestinians and Lebanese for six Israeli soldiers held by the PLO. In May 1985, it traded another 1,150 for three Israeli soldiers.

Later in 1985 Israel freed 331 Lebanese Shi'ite leaders said it was in exchange for 39 foreigners on a hijacked American airliner, although Israel denied it.

But Israel has not shown a similar willingness to open talks with the PLO, despite the Palesti-

nian uprising that has shaken the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for almost 20 months.

Although 580 Arabs and 39 Jews have died so far — more Israelis than have been rescued in the hostage trade — talks with the PLO are considered out of the question, despite Chairman Yasser Arafat's renunciation of terrorism and his recognition of the Israeli's right to exist.

"We shall stay our course until we convince the terrorist organisation and their supporters that Israel will not bend to terror and violence," Shamir said, referring to both their Shi'ite foes and the PLO.

The Israeli government's readiness to simultaneously deal with Shi'ite groups in Lebanon and refuse to talk to the PLO points to a much stronger reason for reticence than the PLO's association with past attacks on Israelis.

"I'm convinced the terrorism thing is more a pretext than a reason," said Mark Heller of Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Centre for Strategic Studies.

Shi'ite groups in Lebanon may be nuisance but clearly do not threaten Israel's existence. However the PLO represents millions of Palestinians who want a state that many Israelis fear could be a "threat."

Israeli officials fear negotiations with the PLO would legitimise Palestinian nationalism and

trigger an irrevocable process ending in a Palestinian state in the occupied territories.

"They don't want to get on that slippery slope," Heller told Reuters.

In contrast, the United States is talking to the PLO but refusing to negotiate with the kidnappers of its citizens in Lebanon.

U.S. reasoning runs opposite to that in the Israeli government. Washington believes talking to the PLO may lead to Middle East peace and stability, but dealing with kidnappers of U.S. citizens could encourage more attacks on Americans.

"Israel has one policy and we have a different policy," U.S. Assistant Secretary of State John Kelly said last week in Tel Aviv. "And that is clear."

Although he was referring to negotiations with the Lebanese kidnappers, it could just as easily refer to discussions during his three-day visit about U.S.-PLO contacts.

The different policies reflect different evaluations of the danger. The Israeli government no doubt hates violating its vows never to deal with any organisation it labels "terrorist."

But in the case of groups holding Israeli hostages, it thinks the price is worth paying. In the case of broader negotiations with the PLO, it fears the political cost would be too high.

Afghan war poses tough dilemma for doctors

By Malcolm Davidson
Reporter

KABUL — At the height of the rocket attack on the Afghan capital, Red Cross doctors had to decide who to save.

A young woman, legs blown off in a rocket blast, was too badly injured to survive without hours of surgery. In the time she would have spent on the operating table several other victims might have been saved.

She was given a shot of morphine to ease the pain, put into a tent reserved for the mortally wounded and allowed to die.

George Muheim, Red Cross coordinator in Kabul, said cars and taxis were bringing in the seriously injured too fast for the two surgical teams to keep up.

"This is one of the most difficult things in a war hospital. If we operate on one person for six to eight hours then we are going to allow another six to die," he said.

On that July Saturday when a shower of rockets fired by Mujahadeen rebels struck Kabul, more than 35 people were killed instantly and more than 100 were injured. Ten of the injured died in hospital.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) hospital about five kilometres from the city centre was swamped with the casualties.

Many were dreadfully mutilated, cut to pieces by the shrapnel that causes most damage in the increasingly frequent rocket attacks.

The ICRC opened the hospital last October to treat the victims of the 10-year-old civil war between the Soviet-backed government and the Western-supported Mujahadeen.

"We admit all war wounded that show up," Muheim said, adding that no distinction was made between soldiers, civilians or guerrillas disguised as fighters.

Treating the Mujahadeen can be fraught with problems. "We

deal with it very simply. We never ask questions," said Muheim, who is from Switzerland.

The hospital is in two big villas, with a general men's ward built in the gardens out of old freight containers.

Thousands of containers, which bring food and other goods to Kabul, are put to ingenious use by Kabulis — becoming instant garages, refugee homes or roadside shops.

Most of the time there are between 80 and 90 patients in the hospital, but it can squeeze in 150.

According to United Nations figures, 281 civilians were killed in Kabul between June 25 and the end of July and almost 750 were seriously wounded.

"Some patients we get after 10 to 15 minutes. If they had not got treatment within 30 minutes or so they would have died," Muheim said.

The critical time limit for treatment is six hours. After that infection sets in, particularly in war wounds where shrapnel or bullets drive pieces of clothing and dirt deep into the body.

Unlike conventional surgery, such wounds are kept open for up to a week to make sure there is no infection.

Up to one-fifth of the pa-

tients are children.

Most are hurt by shrapnel, but some are badly burned by magnesium flares dropped by Soviet and Afghan aircraft to deflect rebel anti-aircraft missiles.

The giant Soviet IL-76 transports that bring food and weapons to the Kabul government spit out up to 150 of the flares as they spiral in and out of the airport.

Sometimes the flares, which leave a herringbone pattern of smoke in the sky, are still burning when they hit the ground or fail to ignite until found by inquisitive children.

Muheim, a 52-year-old surgeon who has worked in war hospitals in Pakistan, on the Thai border with Cambodia and in Beirut, said the injuries in Kabul were particularly nasty.

As he was speaking, doctors examined a 13-year-old boy called Sayed whose face had been horribly mutilated by a mine explosion seven months earlier.

Blind and unable to close his mouth, he had been sent to the hospital for surgery by a visiting American plastic surgeon.

But for the boy from the Panjshir valley north of Kabul, and for many like him, the chances of normal life are slim.

Kelly arrives in Jordan

(Continued from page 1)

diplomatic experience in Lebanon to help his dealings with regional leaders.

After a meeting earlier this week with Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, Kelly told reporters that his three-day visit to Israel was not in response to the hostage crisis in Lebanon.

Kelly also met with Shamir for what he described later as "a serious discussion of the peace process and the problems that are involved and the other issues between the U.S. and Israel."

In remarks to reporters in Cairo, he summed up his talks with Mubarak, Abdul Meguid and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Boutros Ghali as "important... fruitful and useful... (and an) extremely valuable exchange (of views)."

He said the Lebanese situation was also discussed and "we shared our deep concern at the continuing fighting there and shared our common hopes that continued efforts can be made by concerned nations and members of the Arab League to try to bring about a reconciliation there."



A scene from a recent military parade in Cairo

Egyptian defence minister says his country not making chemical arms

By John Fullerton
Reuters

CAIRO — Egyptian Defence Minister Youssef Sabri Abu Taleb has categorically denied that his country possesses chemical weapons or intends to manufacture them.

"We insist and we ensure that we don't have and do not intend to have these chemical weapons," Abu Taleb told Reuters and the international television agency Visnews shortly before leaving on his first visit to the United States as Egypt's top soldier.

Abu Taleb, 60, was appointed defence minister and commander-in-chief of Egypt's armed forces in April in a move that took many diplomats and political observers by surprise.

U.S. media had linked his replacement of Abdul Halim Abu Ghazala with allegations that Egypt was developing new poison gases and long-range missiles and was involved in alleged attempts to obtain U.S. secrets illegally.

Abu Ghazala had long been regarded as the second most powerful man in Egypt after President Hosni Mubarak.

His successor, a career soldier with a reputation for skillful management, was to begin talks Sunday with U.S. Defence Secretary

Dick Cheney on ways of strengthening already close defence ties between the two countries.

In Wednesday's interview, Abu Taleb said Egypt was against missile proliferation, but said those with a range of more than 300 or 450 kilometres should come within a regional arms control package embracing nuclear and chemical weapons.

He made no direct reference to Israel, which is widely believed to have nuclear warheads and the means to deliver them.

The general was asked if U.S.-Egyptian ties were marred by the conviction by a Cairo court of U.S. nationals for spying as well as U.S. charges of attempts to illegally export sensitive American missile technology to Egypt.

"I don't think anything should cloud any relations... we never interfere in the internal affairs of any countries," he said, adding that it was the right of both Egypt and the United States to act as they saw fit to protect their security.

Samir Youssef Ibrahim Wassef was sentenced in Cairo last week to 10 years for spying for the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

Egyptian-born but raised in the United States, Wassef said he was

a victim of trumped-up charges aimed at swapping him for Abdul Kader Helmi, an Egyptian-born American who faces U.S. charges of trying to smuggle missile technology to Egypt.

Wassef's brother Samir and an alleged CIA officer were both given similar sentences in their absence.

Abu Taleb stressed what he saw as the strength of relations between the two countries.

"I believe the relationship is very strong now. We were full partners in the peace process... I do believe our mutual interests are peace, security, stability and democracy."

Egypt is the largest recipient of U.S. aid after Israel, with more than \$800 million a year for civil projects and \$1.5 billion in military assistance.

Asked why, after the 1979 Camp David treaty, it was necessary to keep nearly half a million men in uniform, Abu Taleb replied:

"Having reasonable armed forces will reflect indirectly on economic development. You know in the Third World, you should be strong to be heard, you should be strong to be a friend."

The general said there had been a million men in the armed

forces at the time of the 1973 war with Israel.

He said he regarded regional instability as the greatest single threat now to Egypt's security.

He cited fighting in Lebanon, the tenuous ceasefire between Iran and Iraq, the failure to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Palestinian problem and Sudan's six-year civil war.

"Nobody wants war. We need peace after so many years of wars. We need peace to redevelop our country."

Would defence spending be cut in line with Egypt's efforts to reduce its budget deficit and repay foreign loans?

"It should be reduced and it is reduced to the minimum," he said, adding that it was much less than other states spent. He declined to give figures.

Asked if Egypt planned to cut, reduce or postpone major U.S. weapons programmes, such as F-16 fighters and Abrams M-1A1 tanks, Abu Taleb said previous commitments would be maintained.

Abu Taleb has visited the United States twice before. In 1954 he attended an artillery officers' course in Oklahoma and in 1966, while governor of Cairo, he visited New York.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Paper: Arab news agencies fail

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab national news agencies are failing to do their jobs properly and should be replaced by an independent Arab press agency, a Gulf newspaper said Sunday. "We wish that Arab news agencies were the primary source of reports on Arab issues but regrettably news about them is found mainly in the four main international news agencies," the United Arab Emirates Al Khaleej paper said in an editorial. The paper described staff at the Arab agencies as "helpless journalists who are carrying out government policies." Almost all the news agencies in the Arab League are government-owned. Al Khaleej said that with the possible exception of reports from the Kuwait News Agency KUNA, Arabic newspapers found it hard to use Arab agency news. The paper said a joint, private agency should be formed, run on a professional basis and free from government guidelines. "Such an agency will not only be of great benefit to Arab media, but its voice will be heard in the media all over the world," it said.

Egypt to help in UAE literacy drive

ABU DHABI (R) — Egypt will help the United Arab Emirates in its drive to end illiteracy by the year 2000, the official news agency WAM said Saturday. It said Cairo would provide teachers and books and advise on instruction techniques. The UAE cabinet approved a 10-year plan in May to eradicate illiteracy.

Filipinos evacuated from Lebanon

BEIRUT (AP) — More than 200 Filipinos, many of them female entertainers, were evacuated from war-torn Lebanon Sunday after complaining they were stranded, police said. They were driven out of Beirut in a Syrian-escorted bus convoy as shells rained on the Lebanese capital before dawn. The convoy headed for Damascus. A spokesman at the Philippines embassy said the evacuees were due to fly later to Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, to catch a Filipino jetliner to Manila. Some of the group, mostly women but including children

and men, had come to Lebanon seeking work opportunities. Others, who had gone to Nicosia, Cyprus, on tourist visas and worked there as entertainers had travelled to Beirut to be able to renew their Cypriot visas. But they were stranded by a new flare-up of shelling duels in and around Beirut which closed the airport and made sea travel dangerous. The Philippines government said it did not know of the situation in Beirut, until it became aware of its citizens' plight through press reports. It then provided the evacuation opportunity.

Sudanese leader ends visit to Libya

ROME (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi said Saturday after talks with Sudan's new leader, Omar Hassan Al Bashir, that Libya will support Sudanese efforts "to preserve its national unity through dialogue and cooperation." The official Libyan news agency IANA, monitored in London and Rome, said Bashir ended his visit to Libya Saturday, and Qadhafi accepted an invitation to visit Sudan. The agency said the two leaders discussed developing bilateral relations and both expressed a belief in "comprehensive Arab unity." It said they agreed to regular ministerial meetings to boost bilateral cooperation. Bashir, with help from other military officers, overthrew Sudanese Prime Minister Sadeq Mahdi's government June 30.

Iran settles dispute with India

NICOSIA (AP) — The Iranian cabinet Saturday approved a draft law settling a disputed \$255-million loan to India's steel organisation, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported. The agency, monitored in Nicosia, also said the cabinet approved an agreement for the purchase of iron ore from India's Kunderkh mines. IRNA said the cabinet meeting under Prime Minister Hussein Musavi approved the bill after listening to explanations submitted by Economic and Financial Affairs Minister Mohammad Javad Irvani and Mines and Metals Minister Mohammad Reza Ayatollahi. No details of the disputes or the settlement were mentioned by the agency.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

PROGRAMME ONE

15:30 Koran
15:45 Programme review
15:45 Children programmes
17:00 Flying Doctors
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Local series
18:15 Local programme
19:15 Programme review
19:40 News in Arabic
20:00 Arabic series
21:20 Programme review
21:40 Local programmes
23:00 News summary in Arabic

PROGRAMME TWO

18:50 Les Pique Asiettes
18:50 Documentary
19:00 News in French
19:15 Weekly Sport magazine
19:30 News in Hebrew
19:45 Varieties
20:30 The Golden Girls
21:18 "Around the World in 80 Days"
22:00 News in English
22:30 Shadow of the Noose

PRAYER TIMES

04:23 Fajr
05:49 (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:41 Dhuhr
16:22 'Asr
19:53 Maghreb
21:00 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweets Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 623266
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625343
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
Serbian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 821264

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

There will be a slight rise in temperatures and the weather will become relatively hot. Winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Mjn./max. temp.

AMMAN

Amman 20 / 33
Aqaba 21 / 40
Deserts 21 / 38
Jordan Valley 23 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 31, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 34 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Munir Qasbi 898101
Dr. Adel Amman 812149
Dr. Muntir Al Qasbi 78259
Dr. Ramzi Al Mizawi 894788
First pharmacy 661912
Ferdous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Naboukh pharmacy 623612
Al Salem pharmacy 636790
Yaacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamoun pharmacy 637660
IBRD:
Dr. Ziad Al A'ara (—)
Al Shams pharmacy 983258
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Rescue 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 643402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Prior Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 897467
Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623903
Repairs 623903
Abdullah Telephone Repair 861301
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
IBRD:
Dr. Ziad Al A'ara (—)
Al Shams pharmacy 983258
ZARQA:
Dr. Akram Haddad (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hassan Medical Centre 813613/32
Khalid Maternity, J. Ama 642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Ama 642816
Jabal Amman Maternity 642816
Malhas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 664714
Shamsi Hospital 669131
Al-Musabir Hospital 848458
The Islamic, Abdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Army, Madinat 771013/5
Al-Basir, J. Ashraf 775111/26
Queen Aila Hospital 891611/15
Queen Aila Hospital 622419/50
Ammal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983322
Zarqa National Hospital (09)981071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
IBRD:
Princess Basma Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafes Hospital (02)247100
Aqaba:
Princess Haya Hospital (09)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal

Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)533095, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

10:00 Damascus (RJ)
10:00 Suez (RJ)
10:00 Athens (RJ)
10:00 Jeddah (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 Kuwait (RJ)
10:00 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Lebanon (RJ)
10:00 Calcutta (RJ)
10:00 Cairo (RJ)
10:00 New York, Vienna (RJ)
10:00 Bucharest (RJ)
10:00 Bucharest (RJ)
10:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)
10:00 Moscow (RJ)
10:00 Rome (RJ)
10:00 Baghdad (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

09:30 London (BA)
10:30 Dubai (EK)
11:00 Frankfurt (LH)
14:00 Ankara, Istanbul (TC)
14:00 Cairo (MS)
14:00 Baghdad (GF)
15:30 Kuwait (KU)
16:00 Baghdad (IA)

15:00 Baghdad (IA)
16:25 Paris (AF)
16:25 Baghdad (AF)



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday receives participants in the World Islamic Council meetings which ended in Amman Saturday. (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Crown Prince receives WIC team

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Sunday received a delegation representing the World Islamic Council (WIC) headed by the Sudanese Field Marshal Abdul Rahman Swareddahab, who briefed the Crown Prince on the Council's objectives and activities in the spheres of Islamic Da'wa and emergency relief in the Arab and Muslim Worlds.

Swareddahab outlined WIC efforts in the occupied Arab territories and its charitable projects there.

Prince Hassan stressed the need to provide funds for such charitable projects through Waqf property and the investment of Zakat (alms) fund in various charitable projects, be they scientific or social, with a view to ensuring their sustainability.

Prince Hassan briefed the delegation on the objectives of the Hashemite Jordanian Charity for Relief, Development and Inter-Arab and Islamic cooperation, saying that it will support charitable activities in Jordan, such as assistance for needy families and employing local resources to supplement social and economic development in Jordan.

At the pan-Arab and Islamic levels, Prince Hassan said, the

charity will carry out the activities of the National Jordanian Committee for Solidarity with Sudan, in addition to those of the Inter-Islamic Cultural Cooperation and Coordination Committee.

Late Saturday, the WIC's Relief and Da'wa committee concluded its meetings and adopted a number of recommendations designed to alert world public opinion and the Islamic nations and international organisations to the gravity of the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

The WIC referred to the Israeli hostilities against the Aqsa Mosque and the holy places in Jerusalem and called on all the world bodies to provide more protection and care to Al Aqsa Mosque and the holy shrines in Jerusalem.

The council also recommended the formation of a delegation, to be headed by Swareddahab, entrusted with settling the dispute between Mauritania and Senegal.

The council welcomed the establishment of Saddam University for Islamic Sciences as a major means of spreading Islamic Da'wa and called on the university to set aside a number of seats for Muslim students from the various parts of the Islamic World.

Palestinian refugee affairs supervisors end talks

Meeting seeks continued support for Palestinian national struggle

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the week-long conference of Palestinian Refugee Affairs Supervisors, Sunday called on all international and regional organisations to provide the necessary assistance for the Palestinians to help them pursue their national struggle against the Israeli occupation authorities.

At the conclusion of their meetings here, participants hailed the Palestinian uprising in the occupied Arab territories and stressed the need for continuing Arab support for the uprising under the leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

The conference also discussed the Arab League general secretary's report on the latest developments on the Palestinian scene and recommended the preparation of the detailed and independent working papers on the issues contained in the secretariat report.

The conference reviewed the memoranda submitted by the Arab countries hosting Palestinian refugees, on the need for a pan-Arab mass media mobilisation in support for the uprising.

On the Israeli threats to the Aqsa Mosque in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem, the conference called for massive media mobilisation to expose the Israeli practices and their human rights violations.

The conference also discussed the services offered by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), with main

concentration on the self-help projects and the special hardship cases programmes, and stressed the need for resuming the distribution of rations to all the Palestinian refugees in the occupied Arab territories.

Also under discussion were the demographic imbalance in the occupied territories as a result of the Jewish migration from and to the occupied territories and the Israeli plans, aimed at expelling the Palestinians from their homeland and replacing them with Jews.

In this regard, the conference adopted a decision calling for a more support to the Palestinians in the occupied territories in order to enhance their steadfastness and enable them to hold to their land.

The conference was attended by representatives for Jordan, Syria, Palestine, Egypt and the Arab League.

Downpayment reduction reflects positively on housing projects

AMMAN (Petra) — Director of the Urban Development Department (UDD) Hisham Al Zagha Sunday said that the government's decision last month to reduce the downpayment payable by beneficiaries from UDD housing projects from 10 per cent to 5 per cent has reflected positively on the UDD housing projects, which witnessed an increase in the number of people wishing to

benefit from these projects.

The decision will also apply to those who wish to benefit from Um Fawwarah Housing Project, which includes 1,400 housing units.

The decision also applies to Marka's second housing project and Russeifa's second housing project.

Zagha pointed out that the Housing Bank has recently reduced the

interest rates on loans to beneficiaries from the UDD housing projects from 8.5 per cent to 8 per cent with the aim of supporting the low income communities.

Before the government's decision to cut the downpayment by half, beneficiaries from UDD housing projects used to pay an amount ranging between JD 250 to JD 700.

ACC labour ministers form 4 committees

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Labour and Social Development Ministers in the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) states Sunday signed minutes of the joint meeting that started here Saturday.

The minutes provided for the formation of four committees, one for studying the labour laws in the four countries in preparation

for drawing up a unified ACC law; a second one for standardising the social security legislations; the third to study vocational training and the fourth to study the possibility of setting up an information bank.

The minutes also provided for the exchange of expertise, in-

formation and know-how and the utilisation of the available resources at the universities and technical institutions in vocational training programmes.

The minutes also provided for coordinating the respective stands of the four countries at regional and international conferences.

Jordan, N. Yemen discuss cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Director general of the Jordan Cooperative Organisation Sunday discussed with North Yemeni secretary general of Local Councils for Cooperative Development Sadeq Abu Ras means to bolster cooperative activities.

During the meeting, they agreed to train Yemeni cadres in

the field of cooperatives and to dispatch Jordanian agricultural engineers to North Yemen to prepare a study about arable lands.

In a statement to Petra, Abu Ras said that his visit to Jordan is designed to discuss the existing fraternal relations in the agri-

cultural field, exchange expertise, benefit from Jordan's agricultural expertise, and discuss the merging of institutions within the framework of Arab Cooperation Council (ACC).

He added that the ACC cooperative organisations made great steps in the field of cooperation.

Sqour, FAO director hold talks on community development programmes

AMMAN (Petra) — Ministry of Social Development Secretary General Mohammad Al Sqour Sunday discussed with director general of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) scopes of bilateral cooperation in the field of rural community development and the rural development programmes in Jordan.

The Jordanian officials also discussed with the U.N. official prospects for undertaking a study on the impact of economic adjustment on the local communities, with the participation of FAO, which has been involved in similar studies.

The study is designed to draw up development programmes capable of alleviating the nega-

tive consequences of the economic situation.

The two officials agreed to holding a national meeting, in which all institutions concerned with development, will take part.

Such a meeting is intended to help formulate an integrated development programme, upon drawing the next five-year economic and social development plan.

ACC health ministers discuss cooperation in drug industries

BAGHDAD (Petra) — Health ministers from the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) — Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen — Saturday discussed scopes of cooperation in the area of national drug industries and chemicals, and agreed to unify their stands vis-a-vis foreign drug suppliers.

In a statement to Petra, Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas said a committee was formed

and entrusted with drawing up an integrated plan of action, which will be presented to the ACC states within a month.

Malhas added that the four ministers have agreed to cooperate in technical, and medical fields, particularly in the areas of expertise and know-how.

However, the minister noted, each country will draw up its perceptions of the form of such

cooperation and will convey it to the Iraqi Health Minister within a month.

The four ministers also agreed to coordinate their stands in all Arab, regional and international medical gatherings.

In this regard, an agreement was made whereby all four ministers will meet to formulate a unified stand before joining any conference.

New project to boost tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — A new brochure is being produced by the Ministry of Tourism as a means to promote tourism in the Kingdom.

Following a meeting, proposed by the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) and attended by Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasir Atallah as well as a representative of the Private Services Development Project (PSDP) in Amman, steps were initiated to assist in the production of such a brochure.

At Atallah's request PSDP called on their professional printing

and graphic design expert, S.K. Dutta, to visit the Kingdom and assist in the preparation of a new brochure being completely developed and produced locally for worldwide distribution to encourage tourism in Jordan.

As a result of Dutta's assignment, special attention is being devoted to the training of local printing and graphic professionals to improve the quality and the professionalism in printing.

While assisting in the design and production of the brochure, Dutta is also directing the renovation of the Ministry's existing

equipment to permit professional in-house printing as required. This is one of the activities of the project which is working to improve the quality of services in the Kingdom.

In the course of his training assignment in Jordan, Dutta has also been working with Royal Jordanian (RJ) in the preparation of a new tourist promotional brochure to be made available at RJ offices throughout the world. The RJ brochure will be multi-lingual which will increase its value, permit expanded distribution and reach a wider audience.



Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday visits Al Bashir Hospital in Amman (Petra photo)

Premier urges NMI to improve services at Al Bashir Hospital

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker Sunday paid an inspection visit to Al Bashir Hospital, where he was briefed by its director on the services, the curative medical treatment it offers to citizens and means of developing and upgrading the levels of such services.

After a tour of the various hospital sections, Sharif Zaid

voiced concern for the need to develop the hospital and improve its curative services, in line with the directives of His Majesty King Hussein to the government.

Sharif Zaid expressed appreciation to all the hospital's medical staff for their efforts, saying that they perform their duties efficiently.

The prime minister called on the National Medical Institution (NMI) to improve the hospital's situation and to perform the necessary maintenance within the framework of an integrated programme, which should be implemented as soon as possible.

The prime minister was accompanied on the visit by the NMI Director General.

Dinar rebounds RJ flights

AMMAN (Petra) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) will accept the Jordanian dinar, in addition to the major foreign currencies, aboard its planes as of Monday, Aug. 7, according to an RJ spokesman Sunday.

The spokesman said that the exchange rate, set out by the commercial banks, upon directives from the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will govern the RJ dealings, either on board its planes, or at the Queen Alia International Airport's free market.

The source noted that the RJ, in its interest to abide by

the government's policy aimed at stabilising the dinar's exchange rate, has maintained the official exchange rate, as announced by the CBJ, until July 12, and has accepted the Jordanian dinar for sales on board its planes, in view of the fact that the free market and the sales on board its planes are fully owned by the RJ and are considered a major source of foreign currency.

However, to avoid any specific temptations which might result from the big difference in the foreign exchange at that

time, RJ decided then to limit the sales on board its planes only — and not at the free market — to the foreign currency, in coordination with the authorities concerned, particularly the CBJ.

"The cancellation of this provisional measure, as of Monday, comes in line with the wise policy adopted by the CBJ and the financial measures taken to stabilise the exchange rate of the dinar, which is a positive indicator of the Jordanian financial policy," the statement said.

American bonds to be issued by Jordan for low-income housing

AMMAN (Petra) — The Finance Ministry has agreed to float in American financial markets bonds worth \$20 million in the name of the government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan guaranteed by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

The amount will be allocated to the Housing Bank, which financed low-income housing projects in Jordan. The bank has financed the first and second Urban Development Projects, in addition to other housing projects carried out by private-sector investors.

The bonds will be issued for the Jordanian government by Weber Strayne, an American financial company, at a static annual rate of 8.75 per cent. The repayment

period will be 30 years, including a 10-year grace period during which no repayments shall be made.

However, following the first ten years, the amount will be paid in equal installments.

In 1986, the government floated bonds worth \$15 million in the United States and allocated it to the Housing Bank in line with the government's policy to provide proper housing to limited and low-income communities.

Badran meets 2 envoys

AMMAN (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Adnan Badran Sunday discussed with the Sudanese ambassador to Jordan the possibility of leasing Sudanese land where water sources are available to Jordan for planting fodder and maize.

This step, on the part of the ministry, is in implementation of the government's financial policies aimed at providing alternate

sources to make up for the imported items, which cost the treasury JD 12 million a year.

Also under discussion Sunday was the possibility of setting up an agricultural station in Sudan. Badran also met with the Swedish ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him prospects of utilising the Swedish experience in the area of forest management.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

PUBLIC HOLIDAY: All ministries, government departments and public institutions will observe a holiday Saturday, Aug. 12, on the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's accession to the throne, which falls on Friday, Aug. 11, according to a communique issued by the Prime Minister Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker. (Petra)

LIBYAN HEALTH AIDE IN AMMAN: Secretary General of the Libyan People's Health Committee Mustafa Zaidi arrives in Amman Thursday on a three-day visit to Jordan for talks with his Jordanian counterpart Zuhair Malhas and senior Jordanian officials on cooperation in health issues. Zaidi will visit a number of health institutions to get first-hand information on the health services in Jordan. (Petra)

PEOPLE'S ARMY: The tenth batch of the People's Army recruits in Karak Governorate Sunday launched a two-day voluntary campaign to clean and maintain Karak Castle. This voluntary activity is part of the duties of the People's Army recruits. Moreover, it coincides with the need to have the castle cleaned as a Czech team will conduct full maintenance of the citadel this year. Meanwhile, the People's Army recruits in Qasr district conducted a cleaning campaign.

LOANS FOR FARMERS: The Agricultural Credit Corporation board of directors donated JD 367,600 in loans to farmers in June. The loans assigned for farmers to finance 535 agricultural projects since early 1989 amounted to JD 1,854,305. (Petra)

MAJALI MEETS OMANI ENVOY: Public Security Department (PSD) Director General Abdul Hadi Al Majali Sunday received the Omani ambassador to Jordan and discussed with him scopes of bilateral cooperation in the field of security. (Petra)

ACCOUNTING COURSE: A total of twenty accountants employed at the Tafleeh Governorate's municipal councils have concluded a three-day course on subjects related to accounting. (Petra)

EDUCATIONAL COURSE IN TAFLEH: A number of women from Tafleeh Sunday enrolled in an educational course at Princess Basma Centre for Social Services in Tafleeh. During the week-long course, lectures will be delivered on matters related to health, educational, and social fields as well as public safety. (Petra)

LIBRARY CLASSIFICATION: A total of twenty-five people Sunday enrolled in a training programme on indexing as well as library classification and documentation at the University of Yarmouk. The two-month long programme is designed to raise the participants' standard and expertise. (J.T.)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic arts exhibition by the Student Affairs Department's Painting Club of the Yarmouk University at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of cartoons by the late Jordanian artist Rahab Sayghayyar at the Plastic Artists Association, Shmeisani.
- ★ A photo exhibition entitled "Bedouin Today" by Japanese photographer Koji Sato at the Royal Cultural Centre.

THEATRE

- ★ An Arabic play entitled "Thamamul Thil" (Price of a Shadow) at the Royal Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ A lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Future of Bees Breeding in Jordan" by Dr. Saifuddin Shehadeh at Abdul Hamid Shomaa Foundation — 6:30 p.m.

FILM

- ★ A French film entitled "Djell, Conte d'Aujourd'hui" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.



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DC 600 A, DC 300 XLP
DC 1000, DC 2000

هاتف ٦٥٥٤٧٠ فاكس ٦٥٤٦٨٤

For More Information Please call 6٥٥٤٦٧٠

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
 مؤسسة الصحافة الأردنية

Editorial Director:
RAKAN AL MAJALI
 Director General:
DR. RADI AL WAQFI
 Editor-in-Chief:
DR. WALEED M. SADI

Editorial and advertising offices:
 Jordan Press Foundation,
 University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171-6, 670141-4, 684311, 684366
 Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
 Facsimile: 661242

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Enlighten the voters

WITH the date of the projected national elections fast approaching, the election fever among Jordanians is also fast rising. It is now expected that the number of candidates will swell to unprecedented heights and the campaigning accompanying the election process will likewise attain higher than ever pitch. There is no wonder that this phenomenon is happening. After all Jordanians are hungry to exercise this inalienable right and look forward with great zeal to the next opportunity when their votes would play a pivotal role in the politics of the country on both domestic and international levels.

Clearly, therefore, the stakes in the anticipated elections are great, and Jordanian voters would want very much to be fully acquainted with the candidates and what they truthfully stand for. The country owes them that much and there is no better or more effective way to accomplish this vital need than to use Jordanian Television for that purpose. What is suggested here is to devote a daily afternoon programme, let us say of two hours, during which the candidates would debate among themselves on issues important and relevant to the Jordanian electorate. This way, the Jordanian voters would have at least an opportunity to know the man or woman they could be voting for and have an occasion to appraise his or her intellect and views on matters that affect the lives of Jordanians, be they political, economic or otherwise.

Short of such an arrangement, many Jordanian voters would be literally voting in the dark. As we want them to exercise their voting rights intelligently and meaningfully, and as the issues affecting Jordan and Jordanians are complex and varied, a deliberate attempt must be made to educate the Jordanian voters with these issues and with the people who claim a right to pursue them on behalf of their supporters.

In this context, it would be necessary to offer such an educational programme to Jordanians free of charge as a public service. And the sooner this process begins the better it would be for the entire country. With the projected date for the elections set now for mid-November, there is indeed little time left to educate Jordanian voters on the subjects and personalities which will dominate the elections. The Ministry of Interior would be well-advised therefore to speedup the preparatory process in order to give voters the optimum opportunity to get ready for it properly.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AN editorial in Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday calls on the world community to force Israel to abstain from carrying out acts of abduction and repressive measures against the innocent people of Palestine and Lebanon. Since its abduction of the Shi'ite leader in southern Lebanon, the whole world in general and the U.S. administration in particular have been preoccupied with its consequences; and it is time for the Jewish state to take a pledge never to repeat such action that can only escalate tension and trigger more violence in our region, said Al Ra'i daily. The paper said that the Jewish state should halt its repressive measures against the Palestinian people as well for the sake of paying the ground for peace. It seems that Israel, faced with an irrepressible intifada and continued Palestinian resistance, and with an intention of escaping from world pressure to make peace with the Palestinians, has resorted to abduction and repression, said the paper. It noted that nothing short of an international conference where Israel will be forced to succumb to the requirements of peace can help bring stability to the Middle East. Israel, it added, can never escape from the moment of truth although it can dodge around for a while, and it should understand that terrorism is no substitute for peace. The paper reiterated the Arab Nation's total condemnation of all forms of terrorism and counter terrorism, and said that the Arabs are quite ready for a permanent peace.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily urges all concerned authorities in Jordan to properly examine the question of emigration of Jordanians. Salah Abdul Samad says that long queues of people line the street in front of a foreign embassy in Amman daily awaiting their turn to get a visa of some kind and travel abroad. The writer says that finalising a procedure for an immigrant visa costs no less than JD 150 in foreign currency. An applicant has to spend money on endorsing certificates, on medical examinations and paying fees to get all the papers ready for the immigration procedure, he says. This is a dissatisfactory phenomenon in our country and calls for the concerned authorities to launch an awareness campaign to curb continued emigration from Jordan and the continued drain of foreign exchange which is badly needed for development under the present hard circumstances in Jordan, the writer adds. He says that something must be done in this regard while keeping the option open for Jordanians to travel for work abroad.

Sawt Al Shab daily comments on John Kelly's current tour in the Middle East and says that the U.S. envoy who is coming to Jordan Sunday had stated that he was carrying no plan for peace in the region. What Kelly has heard in Cairo will be repeated in Amman, and that is totally different from the views of the Israeli leaders who in the past week launched a media campaign spreading Zionist ideas and defending Israeli repressive measures in the occupied Arab lands, the paper noted. It said that Kelly and the U.S. administration should realise that the Arabs seek peace based on justice, and one that can be brought about through an international peace conference which can put an end to the whole Arab-Israeli conflict and restore Palestinian people's rights. All the Arab countries, said the paper, are in agreement on this method of achieving peace; and there can be no chance for Kelly to succeed in his mission except by persuading Israel to respond to that cause.

By Ian Black

Hollow talk and horror tactics

SOME LUCKY countries have silly seasons at this time of year, but another August in the Middle East brings little in the way of light relief. Israel's kidnapping of a militant Shi'ite religious leader in South Lebanon and the reported execution of the American hostage William R. Higgins by the Iranian-backed Hezbollah organisation have suddenly created a world-class drama which is unlikely to have a happy end, which ever way you look at it.

Lebanon is like that: "What's a Druze and who gives a damn?" a grizzled U.S. television producer was once heard to drawl, when some bizarre new twist of sectarian alliance and carnage in the Shouf mountains confused him beyond patience. Yet Western hostages, including Britain's Terry Waite, are still chained to radiators in Baalbek and Beirut's southern suburbs and three Israeli soldiers are held captive by the Hezbollah. So when Israel starts to play dirty, the world sits up angrily and takes notice. Sanctioned? Perhaps. Or maybe just common sense.

Israel is good at things like that: the same people who brought you the Entebbe rescue and the assassination of the PLO's Abu Jihad in Tunis last year — the soldiers and secret agents of what a perceptive Diaspora Jew once affectionately called "my little gangster state" — can still do a nice line in derring-do based on precise intelligence and strong nerves. Chutzpa, they call it in Hebrew. There may well be considerable logic to the Israeli operation — although Lebanese sources insist that the sheikh has little swap value. But the furious international reaction to the kidnapping is in part a measure of just how unpopular Israel has become in the last couple of years.

While the Palestinian intifada rages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the idea of a search for real peace looks like such a bad joke, who can be surprised if Israel attracts so little sympathy? It is this yawning gap between

declaration and intention that lies at the heart of Israel's decline. Generations of Israelis were brought up by their Middle East experts — those famous ones who "really knew" their enemies — to distinguish between Arab rhetoric and reality between what was declared in public by Nasser, Assad, or Arafat and what was said for domestic consumption. Arab leaders might say they wanted peace, the Israeli argument rang down deafeningly over the years, but they wanted war.

Israel itself is blessed with a prime minister who is long on rhetoric and short on hope. Yitzhak Shamir's whole personality has been moulded by the struggle against Arab hostility, from his days as a leader of the Stern Gang in the final days of the British mandate, through his experiences as an operations man for the Mossad secret service. He is a leader whose instinct is to fight because peace is impossible. Yet he keeps saying that he really wants peace.

And what better evidence could he supply than by meeting, first secretly and then amid massive media attention, a West Bank lawyer who said that he had reported to PLO headquarters in Tunis on the talks with the Israeli prime minister.

"You forget about the PLO," a cartoonist had Mr. Shamir twirling at his Palestinian interlocutor, "and I'll forget about the Likud." Cartoons are simpler than life. They are also funnier. Mr. Shamir's proposal for holding elections in the West Bank was intended to provide an escape route from the corner into which Israel had been pushed by the intifada. More hawkish (or less diplomatic) members of his own Likud Party, led by the bullish Ariel Sharon, forced him to say what he really meant: that he had no intention of dealing with Yasser Arafat, of allowing

the creation of an independent Palestinian state, or of making any territorial concessions whatsoever in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The pressure of the Likud hawks has created a new word in Hebrew political terminology. Hishukim, in standard usage, are the metal hoops that hold the wooden sections of a barrel together. In Likud lexicography, the word means the binding Mr. Shamir to his ideology of Greater Israel, of resisting any advances by the PLO, ignoring Arafat's deepening dialogue with the U.S., keeping calm and hoping for better times.

Yet Shamir says he wants peace. So does Yitzhak Rabin, the Labour Party's defence minister in the rickety national unity government.

Rabin has recently started to make a distinction between "PLO-Tunis" and Palestinians in the occupied territories. Thus the determination seems to be slipping; Rabin, like Shamir, knows that the distinction is untenable and ultimately meaningless. After 20 months of the intifada, with the sacrifices that have brought the Palestinians more sympathy and attention than 20 years of often bloody armed struggle, there really is no other partner for Israel except the PLO. To imagine otherwise is no more than self-delusion.

Jordan gave a timely reminder this week of just how much things have changed since last summer, when it severed ties with the West Bank and decided that the PLO could finally go it alone. Jordan accused Israel of deliberately devaluing the Jordanian dinar and trying to export the intifada across the river.

Yet some of Israel's brightest minds now do little else than devote themselves to proving that none of this is true. Diplomats are under instructions simply not

to listen when their American counterparts report on the progress of the dialogue with the PLO, which so shook Israel when it began last December. U.S. hesitation in condemning last month's incident when a lone Palestinian from Gaza sent 16 passengers hurtling to their death on a bus that was forced off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway was seized upon as evidence of the sombre depths to which a once loyal and supportive ally has sunk.

America believes the PLO, or at least recognises that it has no alternative but to believe it: the organisation insists repeatedly that it wants an honourable peace; that the terrorism that so marred its cause for so many years is a thing of the past; that its weapons today are the stone, the petrol bomb and international sympathy; that its goal is to drive home to Israel that occupation cannot last for ever, not to drive the Jewish state into the sea.

Ignoring this change, attested to by Israel's own intelligence community but studiously ignored by its political leaders, is to live a lie.

None of this makes the PLO a troop of boy scouts, but it cannot be, as Shamir would have his people and the world believe, that Arafat simultaneously threatens everyone and represents no one.

As the intifada continues, dominated still by the mainstream nationalists of Fatah and the leftists of the Democratic and Popular Fronts, the voice of the hardliners is becoming steadily louder. The bearded extremists of Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement — ideological cousins of those Lebanese Hezbollah who want to destroy Israel and replace it with a Muslim Palestine — are calling the shots more and more these days. No one should forget that men like the kidnapped Sheikh Obeid graduated from a school of hard knocks and came to prominence when Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982. Knowing your enemy is one thing. Making peace with him is still quite another — The Guardian.

OPEN FORUM

'Natives' vs. natives

ALLOW me to charge to the attack since I cannot find a sadder way to start this written protest. After four years of teaching in Amman, my batteries are full.

I vehemently and unreservedly object to the use of the words "native speakers" in school advertisements in your newspaper. I am not a native of Britain or America but (surprise) I have taught English to Arab children at a so-called English school. A good number of "native" speakers of English who now teach the language and its literature do not come to this country as fully qualified professionals. They come for other reasons, viz. marriage to Arab men or as nannies.

They end up teaching English to our kids — and feeling, oh so professional about it. They probably wouldn't get hired as teachers in their countries.

Yet certain schools demand "native speakers" — some fully aware of racial implications; others not knowing any better. Some advertisements blatantly specify racial preferences: "British or Americans need only apply."

Furthermore, these schools often hire unqualified (and totally inadequate) foreign staff for the sake of their names: A Miss Jane Jones but not a Miss Wajida Ibrahim.

I have seen these "natives" at work. Their spelling is often atrocious and their treatment of children is occasionally abhorrently harsh and unjust.

They have little or no understanding of our culture and attempt instead to impose a foreign and wholly undesirable one in the minds of our children.

Where, in other parts of the world, does this happen? What, for heaven's sake, is wrong with speaking English with a slightly Arab accent?

The Spanish speak English with a Spanish accent. The French speak English with a French accent. I could go on forever. I am not suggesting that Arab speakers of English do master the language well. Obviously, they are far from mastering it well in the professional sense.

But I know one thing. Our lives don't depend on it. And one can still get their "b"s and "p"s wrong and survive.

You could also occasionally get a verb tense wrong and live to tell the tale. So what?

Ask these native speakers if they can pronounce the words "Khaled" or "Amman."

Haya Hasselini

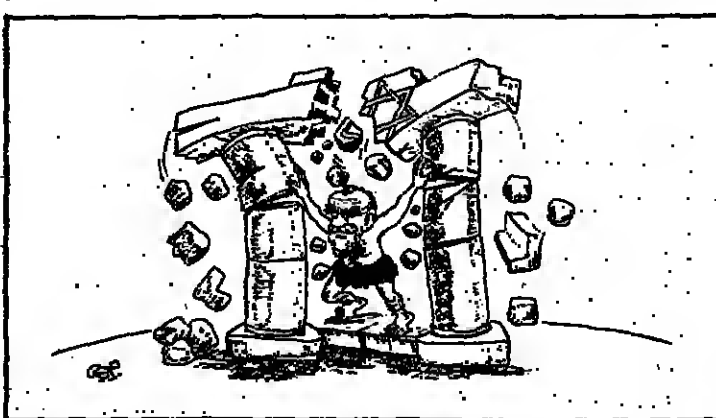
Hypocrisy

EVERYONE agrees that the reported hanging of U.S. Colonel Higgins in Lebanon is not exactly a human thing to do. But the world reaction to this affair has been even more appalling and extremely hypocritical. It is truly revolting to find that the so-called human-rights loving nations only consider Western lives as being human.

It is amazing to watch the world media reporting all these strongly-worded condemnations of the killing of one American as though no other lives count on their condemnation agenda. It is also bizarre how the Western officials and the media seem to forget the whole incident of the kidnapping of Sheikh Abdul Karim Obeid by Mossad agents. It is also strange to find that none of these nations try to understand the reasons behind such actions taken by frustrated groups of people who have been abused and oppressed for countless years as a result of foreign intervention.

I am not trying to justify the killing of Higgins, for it is an unjustifiable action. I am only questioning the credibility of all those nations that condemn actions that are conducted only by certain groups or that only affect Western lives or property. If these countries feel so revolted by what happened to Higgins, then why don't we see similar reactions to thousands of other innocent lives that have not been spared? Aren't the children of Palestine, for example, considered human beings by those who show so much concern for one Western life? Or don't these children count? The irony of the matter is that one cannot help but notice how the West lights even for animal rights, but when it comes to Palestinians ruthlessly being killed because they demand basic human rights, we don't hear any condemnations. And we certainly don't see any action taken by countries who feel so much remorse for the loss of human life. They should at least attempt to be genuine about their concern over everyone who faces injustice and brutal murder.

Sana Atiyeh



By Rory Channing
 Renter

Africa drafts treaty that would change the continent's face

ADDIS ABABA — African leaders have given the nod to the outline of a potentially momentous treaty — a pact to create an African economic community.

They are on course to sign the document in mid-1991, the year before the European Community creates a single, barrier-free market for its 12 member nations.

Advocates of an African community say the European plan poses challenges that add to the urgency of their task. "To bring about an accelerated and equitable socio-economic development in our region, the founding of such a community is, indeed, crucial," Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam told a summit in July of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

The summit approved proposals drawn up by an OAU steering committee last November which outlined the concept of such a community and the institutional machinery, transitional measures and provisional timetable needed to reach the goal.

The summit resolution did not elaborate on these points. But a summary of the steering committee's work, presented by outgoing secretary-general Ise Oumarou to a closed-door session of the summit, envisages the gradual removal of obstacles to free movement of people, goods, services and capital.

"The concept of a community

further implies the existence of a unified monetary system and that the economic, social and cultural policies of the member states have been harmonised," said the report, a copy of which was obtained by Reuters.

The report envisages the establishment of an African common market over 10 years from 1998, as a prelude to developing a full-fledged African economic community over the next 20 years.

The timetable allows two years for ratification of the treaty after it is submitted to African leaders for signature in mid-1991. It would enter into force in 1993.

By then a free trade area, scrapping tariff and non-tariff barriers on intra-African trade which currently accounts for only four per cent of the continent's total export earnings, should have been set up in existing sub-regional groupings.

The timetable allows 15 years from the time the treaty comes into force to develop a continental customs union and adoption of a common external tariff system for trade with non-African countries,

overlapping steps to launch the common market.

African leaders endorsed the goal of a unified market by the year 2000 in their Lagos Plan of Action in 1980, a blueprint for developing the world's poorest continent towards a goal of collective self-reliance.

But they were urged at their latest summit to try to advance the deadline significantly.

"Time is not on Africa's side," said Adebayo Adedeji, executive secretary of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa.

He said it was becoming increasingly clear the world of the future was one of trading blocs and economic groupings, which stood to gain from collective clout in trade and other negotiations on economic affairs.

He listed the single European Community market from 1992, the existing U.S.-Canada free trade area, the Australian-New Zealand free trade agreement and a proposed economic grouping in Asia which he linked to the 24-nation, Paris-based Organisation of Economic Cooperation

and Development. "The real losers in the 1990s and beyond are those areas, especially Africa, where the process of economic integration is yet to be fully consolidated," Adedeji said.

He and other proponents of a unified Africa argue that unless the diverse continent is able to deal and bargain collectively on trade and other economic matters, it could end up worse off than now.

African states hope that integration and cooperation in transport, communications, industry, energy, agriculture and other projects would ease pressures on national coffers as they pool resources for multi-country ventures.

The formation of an Arab Maghreb Union last February means there is no sub-region now without an economic grouping.

But most of these have suffered shipwreck in timetables for integration. Kenya's Nation newspaper warned last month that the prospects of political and economic unity remained at best hazy.

Divisions between Francophone and Anglophone Africa were as wide as ever, territorial disputes were common and an obsession with national interests was as fervent as ever, it said.

The steering committee proposals adopted at the recent summit underscored the challenges ahead, declaring a need for "sincere political will."

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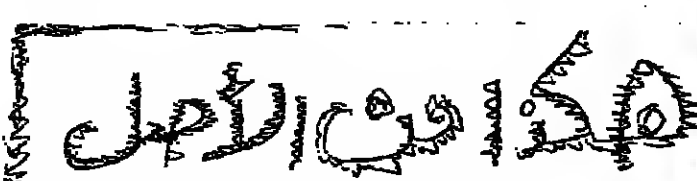
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The guilty verdict

By Gunnar Pettersson

THREE and a half years after Olof Palme was shot dead on a street in central Stockholm, the murderer has finally been brought to justice and found guilty. He is Karl Gustav Christer Pettersson, aged 42, an alcoholic and drug addict with a history of violence, antisocial behaviour and petty crime. As it happens, he rather looks the part too: tall, dark, frighteningly piercing eyes, a slight limp.

Of course, no one saw him do it. Nor did anyone actually see him with a gun in his hand, not even Lisbet Palme. And forensic evidence? Well, none, really — mainly because the murder weapon has never been found. And, no, he hasn't confessed — in fact, he still vehemently professes his innocence.

Never mind, after all this time the pieces in the puzzle finally fit together. At least with a few resolute shoves here and there.

How did he do it? Shortly before 9 p.m. on February 28 1986, a dark and icy cold winter night, Christer Pettersson is on his way to score a few grams of amphetamine. He spots the Palmes going into the Grand cinema in central Stockholm and decides — for a reason still not known — to kill the Prime Minister. He manages to get hold of a .357 Magnum with armour-piercing ammunition, returns to the cinema and waits — in the most conspicuous place possible — for the Palmes to re-emerge after performance. He limps after them down Sveavägen, shoots Olof Palme in the back, and lingers a short while before he leisurely jogs away. Finally, he disappears under the noses of 20 policemen, who happen to be positioned on or around the escape route, and takes the train home.

Not only that, he doesn't breathe a word about it during three years oscillating between alcoholic stupor and amphetamine babbles, spent in a social milieu where one man's word is another man's police reward.

Shortly after his arrest, just before Christmas last year, the former Minister of Justice Anna-Greta Leijon — one of several political victims of the Palme affair — gave a newspaper interview and commented that, "It would be such a relief if it turned out to be him!"

With Pettersson's conviction on July 27 it is easy to see why Mrs. Leijon, and many others, should now feel extremely relieved. Despite the rumours, speculations and conspiracy theories, the murder of Olof Palme has turned out to have no political significance whatsoever. Pettersson apparently has no political views one way or the other, no particular grudges against society, not even any strong feelings about the controversial figure of Olof Palme.

In particular, the murder had nothing whatever to do with the complex and sensitive issue of Olof Palme's role as U.N. mediator in the Gulf war and the coincidental, legal and not so legal, sale of Swedish arms to Iran — and India, and Singapore, and practically anyone else with the cash to buy them. Nor was there anything at all in the persistent speculations that Palme had fallen victim to an extreme right-wing plot, possibly involving elements within the very police precinct where he was shot and within the very Security Police whose bodyguards Palme had dismissed for the weekend.

Now no unpleasant facts need be faced about Palme's place in the long and dishonourable tradition for preaching peace in the

morning and selling arms in the afternoon; nor about the powerful forces inside and outside the agencies of the state whose politics consist mainly of violent anti-party towards neutrality, immigrants and — for many years — Olof Palme himself.

However, Anna-Greta Leijon is probably too much of a politician not to realise that some people will always remain unforgotten. In a survey taken before the trial, 62 per cent of Swedes refused to believe in Pettersson's guilt.

With his conviction it is of course anyone's guess whether that number will have been reduced significantly. In most people's eyes, Pettersson certainly isn't someone you would invite to tea with your gran, but nor does he seem to amount to much more than a down-and-out who can't even nick a tin of bolognese sauce from the Co-op without getting caught, as happened a fortnight before he supposedly committed one of the most daring political assassinations this century. So, it ought to come as no surprise to anyone that there is now talk of a miscarriage of justice.

The trial began as farce, but soon switched to tragedy. It was bad enough that the case was built entirely on circumstantial evidence; worse that it rested to a large degree on three witnesses who promptly retracted their evidence in court and testified to undue pressure being put on them during police questioning — pressure, such as having the tantalising words "Fifty million kronor!" (the official reward) repeatedly whispered in one's ear. Then, with the trial on the verge of disintegrating, Lisbet Palme dramatically entered the stage. In a letter to the court, arriving the day before her scheduled appearance, she demanded that her testimony be given not only in camera, but without the defendant being present and without any form of video or tape recording — not even by the court, which had to rely solely on stenographers. Although most of her demands were met, Lisbet Palme's conduct was regarded with mixed feelings. From a human point of view, it seemed relatively little to ask; since she is, obviously, still under severe mental strain. However, taken together with her previous refusal to allow Pettersson's defence lawyer to be present at her identification of him, her attitude to the whole case, and to the legal process, seemed both arrogant and counter-productive.

Bearing in mind that the court was obliged to apply the principle of reasonable doubt, that a controversial, video-taped identity parade — held two days after Pettersson's arrest last year — would certainly seem an occasion for scepticism, at least. Not only was the defence excluded from it, but Pettersson was the only one in the line-up to wear distinct, light-coloured shoes, and he was the only defendant among 11 beady-looking policemen. His low-life existence being already widely known, Lisbet Palme's first unfortunate comment on seeing the tape was, "Well, it's easy to see which one is the alcoholic, anyway."

Add to that the fact that she seemed to have constructed part of her description of the murderer to fit Pettersson — she mentioned, nothing about "piercing eyes" until she had seen him on the video tape — and it looked as though the prosecution's case had come to rest almost entirely on desperately wishful thinking.

Although the defence managed seriously to undermine the validity of her testimony — showing



A flame for Palme: immigrants to Sweden were victims of an ugly press campaign in 1986

her to have been confused to the point of hysteria in the minutes following the murder — the court felt able to dismiss all the doubts, arguably with the help of a large dose of wishful thinking of their own. In the end, Christer Pettersson was found guilty of the murder of Olof Palme on the technically questionable evidence of the "still profoundly traumatised" (her own words) widow, who claims she saw him twice at the scene of the crime and was convincingly shown to be mistaken about one of those occasions. This is the sum total of the evidence against Christer Pettersson.

Not surprisingly, conspiracy theories are rife in Sweden, and have been ever since people woke up to the news that eerie day after the murder. The handling of Lisbet Palme's testimony was only the last of a series of bangles of such elephantine proportions that the question now practically asks itself: where does incompetence end and intent begin? Although quite a few Swedes might choose to accept the outcome — if nothing else because of a confused boredom with the whole sorry mess — the feeling will remain among many others that the real murderer will now never be found.

The cynics will say that Christer Pettersson is too much of the perfect scapegoat for that ever to happen. From now on — and for a very long time — his face behind bars will serve as a comforting reminder of the due processes of the law whenever doubts are raised about what, exactly, all those policemen were doing in the area at the time of the murder. Or about the mysterious "Iran-Iraq documents" from February 1986, which not even the constitutional committee of the Swedish parliament is allowed to see. Or about the distortions, half-truths and outright lies emanating from the headquarters of the investigation whenever the trail seemed to lead away from politically acceptable suspects.

In that political-psychological sense, Christer Pettersson's role is not unlike that of Ake Gunnarsson — another loner from the outskirts of ordered society, who was arrested only a few days after the murder. The evidence against Gunnarsson was equally thin, in fact non-existent, and it is now generally accepted that he was pulled in for no other reason than to provide everyone with peace of mind during Olof Palme's funeral the following

week. With the imminent burial of the investigation itself, it is hoped that the minds of most people will be equally troubled.

If so, it would quite literally be the triumph of hope over experience, because the past three and a half years have been something of a further education in politics for many Swedes. It is sometimes called the "Italianisation" of the Swedish society: a gradual and rather painful recognition of the fact that the running of an advanced democracy is largely a matter of maintaining semisecret networks of influence, that vital decisions are more often than not taken far away from the elected assemblies, and that honesty and integrity aren't necessarily the first things you associate with politicians, public prosecutors and policemen.

In the first weeks after the murder, the phrase "Sweden will never be the same again" was repeated, almost mantrically, in the face of what seemed an uncertain and perilous future. In fact, it turned out to be quite true, although not in the way it was envisaged: instead of the lawless streets came the lawless corridors of power, and with it increasing proneness to embarrassing accidents and sheer panic, interrupted only by a Borgias-like lack of subtlety which had not been seen before.

A case in point is the Alice-in-Wonderland verdict in the recent Bofors arms smuggling trial, when the two directors accused of selling arms illegally were acquitted despite admitting to the charges. In the eyes of many, the state and judicial machinery has turned from a safe and reliable family saloon into something which more and more resembles a dangerously clattering old banger.

Sadly, that assessment must also include a large part of the Swedish media. If there is post-trial reckoning to be done, it is unlikely that there will be much to impress one on the credit side of, especially, the Stockholm-based national press. "Uncritical" isn't quite the word. Most damaging has been the willingness, if not eagerness, to publish unfounded allegations, rumours and disinformation put out by various rival factions within the police and security services — most infamously in late 1986 during a particularly ugly press campaign against Kurdish immigrants, some of whom were suspected (wrongly as it turned out) of involvement in the murder.

There is probably nothing conspiratorial in this docility: it's simply that in the village atmosphere of the capital's political life, the Stockholm press tends to see an awful lot of trees where the rest of Swedish media have fewer difficulties in recognising a forest.

With or without the aid of a critical press, though, Christer Pettersson's prospects certainly look bleak. Although the defence is said to have found another witness who can give him an alibi for the night of the murder — the first such witness was, controversially, dismissed as unreliable — the conviction looks likely to stand, since almost any alibi can be made to look unreliable after three and a half years. It is worth noting, however, that he was convicted on a majority verdict, in which the two experienced judges dissented from the view of the six "lay assessors" making up the jury. With the nature of the Swedish Appeal Court system, involving a progressively larger proportion of professional jurists, there is a remote chance that the evidence will eventually be pronounced inadequate and Pettersson set free.

Meanwhile, back at the "Palme Squad" headquarters, the desks are being cleared, the bullet-proof windows (supplied, incidentally, by a police officer-turned-security consultant, who has himself been interviewed in connection with the murder) are being taken down and detectives are returning to their normal duties — leaving no more than a skeleton staff to keep an eye on the VDUs for any unexpected bleeps and to await the results (due in about two years' time) of test-shooting all the Smith & Wesson .357s licensed in Sweden. Who knows, perhaps Pettersson's fingerprints will turn up on one of them?

The winding-down of the Palme investigation will no doubt be accompanied by the outraged cries of a small band of dedicated conspiracy theorists and freelance investigators, but my guess is that a majority, despite recent experience, will greet it with a mixture of resignation and, indeed, relief — that Olof Palme is, finally, allowed to rest in peace and that Sweden remains, if not the same, at least as a passable version of itself.

But the question whether the tragicomic of the last three and a half years can be ascribed to incompetence or intent, cockup or conspiracy, may not even be for the future to decide — The Guardian.

Appropriate technology and feasible technology

By K.P. Sturmer

Appropriate Technology (AT) or Feasible Technology (FT), as IPI prefers to call it, is an attempt to adapt the scale and complexity of technology to perform necessary tasks, making the most of available human and economic resources. FT tries to be sensitive to the needs, desires and resources of those who will later use it. It is often considered as an alternative or a complement to the centralised technology of the industrialised world.

In recent years the image of AT has changed: the concept is now broader and more pragmatic. A growing number of advocates of AT have pointed out that while small may be beautiful in many ways, it is not always feasible.

In some areas it might be possible to scale down or decentralise a large technology, but dangerous to do away with it entirely. AT must include the principle of selectivity in developing a mix of large and small technologies to meet specific tasks and conditions.

In the last few years a growing number of appropriate technologists have come to regard themselves as pioneers operating at the frontiers of several areas of applied science. They argue that much of what is called appropriate or feasible technology is in fact a particular kind of advanced technology designed for coping with conditions where resources vary. In adapting to the current economic environment, for instance, AT has led to the creation of a number of sophisticated technologies that are more efficient users of energy and material resources. There is good reason to believe that the wise application of technology in terms of careful use of energy through conservation measures, recycling, and the development of renewable sources could make growth possible and sustainable.

Two basic facts with far-reaching consequences have only recently been fully recognised in the field of alternative energy research:

1. There is no satisfactory substitute for the electric motor where connection to the central grid is possible, no alternative to hydro-power where it is available, and no alternative to the diesel engine in terms of overall efficiency (performance per unit of weight, space etc.).
2. No so-called alternative system can be self-generating in terms of energy balance, e.g. solar, wind and geothermal power.

As regards energy, the logical conclusion must be that petroleum fuels must be replaced as far as possible by renewable energy sources, for instance fuel alcohol, producer gas, biogas and wood. Reafforestation programmes are therefore of paramount importance, far more so than, for example, the kind of research which is taking place all over the AT scene into more efficient wood consumption (charcoal burners, distribution problems, prices etc.).

Economic growth

The problems of growth are a monumental challenge to human

ingenuity, in both the industrialised and the developing worlds. Both now have the opportunity to redress some of the perceived errors and wrongs of the past. These errors and wrongs may be categorised under four major headings:

A human definition of growth

The quality of life is as important as the quantity of material output; increased consumption of raw materials is not a satisfactory measure of human progress.

Sustainable growth

Sophisticated industrial economies must tackle the transition from production processes that exhaust resources and produce undesirable wastes to processes that use renewable or recycled resources.

Decentralised growth

The scale and geographical distribution of technology have to be adjusted to the actual distribution of needs.

Diversified growth

There is a need for a diverse mix of technologies, from which those best suited to the job and location in question can be selected.

K.P. Sturmer is Director of the Institute of Production Innovation (IPI) at the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The abridged article is reprinted from the West German magazine, Gate.

Quiet breeze of change blows through Japanese imperial palace

By Eric Talmadge

The Associated Press

TOKYO — A quiet breeze of change has been blowing through the Imperial palace since Emperor Akihito succeeded his father. But in a monarchy proud of its 1,200-year history, change doesn't come easily.

To most of the nation, Akihito remains a distant figure seen only through the bits and pieces of news gathered by a small group of reporters who cover the daily activities of the royal family from offices behind the Tokyo palace's most and high stone walls.

However, for the past eight months, the public has seen the man on the crysanthemum throne portrayed in a much softer, more personable light than his enigmatic father, Hirohito.

"He is a more democratic person than his father was, because they were raised in a different era," said one palace reporter, who has covered both emperors. "He really wants to get out among the people, and has surprised some attendants by suddenly changing his schedule to do so."

Such comparisons between Hirohito, who was revered as a god until the end of World War II, and Akihito, the first Japanese emperor to accede not as a deity but as a man, have dominated Akihito's reign.

On his first trip away from the capital, Akihito used a less regal form of speech when addressing a crowd and insisted on fewer uniformed guards along procession routes — though more plainclothes police were deployed.

The 55-year-old emperor reportedly even asked for the removal of a curtain separating himself and Empress Michiko from other passengers on a chartered flight to the tree-planting festival in late May.

"I think it's fine ... the Imperial household must adapt to historical developments," Prince Mikasa, Akihito's uncle and at 74 the oldest male member of the Imperial family, recently said in a rare interview with the Yomiuri Shimbun, Japan's largest newspaper.

While still crown prince, Akihito shocked traditionalists in 1959 when he married a commoner. The marriage was warmly welcomed by the Japanese public.

The royal couple then broke with the past by raising their two sons and daughter by themselves.



The Imperial Japanese family in front of the Imperial palace. The late Emperor Hirohito is fourth from left (file photo).

Akihito was sent off to be reared by chamberlains at age 3. More changes were expected after the Jan. 7 death of Hirohito, whose 62-year reign — the longest in Japanese history — covered a tumultuous period of history that many Japanese still struggle to understand. The country waged a disastrous war in Asia, suffered a humiliating defeat in 1945 and rose from the ashes of its bombed-out cities to become a modern economic superpower.

But the momentum of Imperial history makes it difficult for Akihito to make major changes in an institution that can trace its roots back to at least the 8th century and, by legend, to Emperor Jimmu in 660 B.C.

Akihito will give his first news conference, open to a select group of 50 foreign and Japanese reporters, on Friday, eight months after taking the throne.

Like his father, who met with the foreign and Japanese press in several such encounters, Akihito will answer only a set of questions submitted in advance and negotiated with palace officials for several weeks. The meeting is expected to last less than an hour and cover questions like those Hirohito accepted from reporters: The war, the emperor's role in modern Japan, palace life and whether things are likely to change.

Surrounding the emperor are a handful of chamberlains, personal doctors, nurses and ritualists. Most of Hirohito's chamberlains continue to carry out palace duties of some sort, and disagreements between the Akihito and Hirohito camps are not uncommon, the palace reporter said, requesting anonymity.

The chamberlains, themselves often descended from nobility or illustrious families, are known to oppose innovation, even by younger chamberlains. Many see themselves as the protectors of tradition.

Little change is expected in the

daily rituals carried out at three shrines on the palace's wooded grounds. Ritualists dressed in traditional robes and headwear present offerings of food and wine at the shrines — one each dedicated to the gods in general, the Imperial ancestors and the sun goddess, Amaterasu, from whom Japan's royal line is said to have descended.

Hirohito renounced his divinity as a "false concept" at the urging of the U.S.-led occupation forces in 1946. A new constitution, omitting references to the emperor's special relationship to the gods, was drafted in 1946.

That constitution also put an end to state backing of Shinto, Japan's indigenous religion, which had been transformed from a kind of nature worship into an emperor-centered form of nationalism by a military government seeking to fuel its war machine.

But just before Hirohito's death, senior ritualist Toshinobu Maeda said the renunciation of divinity did not affect palace rites, and that Akihito's accession would not, either.

Since the revised constitution took effect, the ritualists have been the private employees of the emperor and are not paid by the government.

Meanwhile, fear of stirring up the state-religion controversy was delayed a government announcement on where another rite, the daijō-sai, will be held.

During that mystical ascension rite, scheduled for November 1990, Akihito is supposed to have his first communion with Amaterasu and then be reborn a god. News reports have said the daijō-sai could cost as much as 10 billion yen (\$70 million).

Tokyo apparently has been chosen for security reasons, but officials refuse to publicly rule out Kyoto, the ancient capital in western Japan where the Imperial family resided for more than a millennium.

JTV CHANNEL 2 HIGHLIGHTS: The Golden Girls returns Monday evening at 8:30 with a new episode entitled *A Little Romance*. Good things come in small packages and Rose wants to keep her little bundle hidden and out of sight from Dorothy and Blanche. It's not that she doesn't like Jonathan who is a midge, or is ashamed of him, she just doesn't know how to deal with the inevitable questions and comments she's sure the ladies are going to ask. At 9:10 there is *Around the World in 80 Days* in which Foggy desperate to find a vessel to take them across the Atlantic, Foggy and Aouda stow away aboard the Vanderbilt yacht, but are thrown overboard before the boat sails. They then meet Captain Speedy who agrees to take them aboard on fuel. Foggy buys the engineer Jenks announces they are low on fuel. Foggy buys the boat and has it dismantled and the parts burned for fuel. Feeding the last pieces of wood into the furnace, they sight land. At 10:20 there is *Shadow of the Noose*. This series is based on the most brilliant cases of Edward Marshall Hall — the greatest defence counsel in the history of London's Old Bailey. Jonathan Hyde plays the charismatic advocate, whose passion for justice takes him to the heights and depths of Victorian and Edwardian society. On Tuesday at 9:10 there is the last episode of the story of Errol Flynn in which the famous movie star faces charges of rape. On Wednesday at 10:20 there is the third episode of the miniseries *Jack the Ripper* in which the police are under increasing pressure to solve the murders. They begin to feel that the murders were not the work of one person. Beauty and the Beast returns Thursday at 9:10 with a new episode entitled *The Rest in Silence*. In this episode good old Vincent explodes into a fit of violence and aggressiveness towards everyone. In *Love and War* is the name of the feature film Thursday night at 10:20. The film traces the effects of war on soldiers. And finally, a new batch of Guinness records will be seen on Friday at 8:30.

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الأمم المتحدة

Federal Reserve Board eases fears of recession in U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — The Federal Reserve Board, the U.S. central bank, may have bailed the American economy back from the brink of a recession which loomed after years of sustained growth.

After reining in inflation earlier this year before it got out of control, the Fed appears to have relaxed its grip on credit just in time, according to a number of economists.

Figures released last week on employment and on home, car and department store sales suggest the economy is already responding to a decline in interest rates in June and July.

"What the data are telling us is that the slowdown in growth has pretty much bottomed out," Robert Chandra, chief economist of Lloyds Bank PLC in New York, said. "It's not a recession scenario."

Bush administration officials still worry privately that Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan may have kept monetary policy too tight for too long in his fight to curb inflation, but in public they are happy with the economy.

"We believe the economy is growing on a modest, sustainable path that will lead to continued job creation consistent with controlling and reducing inflation," chief White House economist Michael Boskin said.

Whether the growth will be enough to satisfy the administration, which needs a vigorous economy to produce ample tax revenues, is another matter.

Many Wall Street economists, like the Fed, expect a growth rate of about 1.5 per cent in the next few quarters, while the White House has forecast 2.7 per cent growth this year and 2.6 per cent in 1990.

"The way matters are evolving, it's as though the Fed wrote the script," said Norman Robertson, chief economist of Pittsburgh's Mellon Bank. "It's a remarkable tribute to Alan Greenspan."

Thoughts of recession, spurred by recent disappointing economic indicators, all but vanished with Friday's strong employment report for July.

A total of 169,000 jobs were created and June's figure was revised up by 70,000 to 250,000. Employment in the subdued manufacturing and construction sectors rebounded last month, the work week lengthened and average earnings increased.

The Labour Department's index of manufacturing employment showed that more than half the 143 industries surveyed hired

more workers last month, the highest figure since March.

"The industrial sector has stopped contracting," Jeffrey Leeds, managing director of Chemical Bank in New York, said. He expects gross national product to expand at a two per cent rate in the second half of 1989.

The evidence of a rebound on the demand side of the economy is less conclusive.

Stephen Sliffer, an economist with Shearson Lehman Hutton Inc in New York, said that consumption after adjusting for inflation fell in May and June. In nominal terms it probably rose only 0.3 per cent in July.

The demand-side components point to just 0.5 per cent growth this quarter, whereas production statistics implied by the employment report suggest three per cent growth.

Protracted negotiations have still to produce an electricity pricing formula that will encourage the growth of new, independent power generating companies while still allowing the former state-owned generating facilities stay in business after the share flotation.

New generating companies can take advantage of relatively cheap, modern technology, while the state-owned sector is saddled with the cost of decommissioning old plants and bringing some power stations up to higher environmental standards.

But while the path to privatisation may not be easy, analysts believe the government is prepared to make financial sacrifices to achieve its political goals.

"The water industry showed that there is the political will," said one analyst, who asked not to be named, "they can push these things through."

EC faces tight timetable for water, power sell-off

LONDON (R) — The British government's ambitious plans to privatise the water and electricity utilities must overcome potential serious hurdles if the multi-billion dollar sales are to go ahead on schedule.

The Water Industry of England and Wales is to be sold to the public in November for up to £7 billion (\$11 billion) and the £25 billion (\$40 billion) electricity privatisation is due to begin early next year.

But stock market analysts believe the government will have to work hard if it is to complete the two largest sales of its wide-ranging privatisation programme in time for the next general election, which must be called by June.

"I would not underestimate the difficulties of this sale," said one analyst, "they are considerable."

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government has agreed to pump about £5 billion into the water industry to help pay off its debts and meet the cost of complying with higher standards of water purity demanded by the European Community.

But the water industry estimates the cost of meeting EC standards could be as high as £15 billion (\$24 billion).

Financial plans for the water industry are based on its being allowed to meet the new quality standards by 1993, rather than 1993 as demanded by the EC.

If it is forced by the Community to bring in the changes sooner rather than later, the privatisation timetable may be affected, according to analysts who see two options.

The government may have to inject further capital into the industry to help it meet a shorter investment timetable. Or each water authority could be forced to rewrite financial plans appearing in the prospectuses for the sale. This would likely delay the flotation.

"That's one of the big questions hanging over the flotation," said Angela Whelan of stockbrokers Barclays de Zoete Wedd in London.

Thatcher's earlier privatisation such as the gas and telephone companies were welcomed by the public as an opportunity to make a quick killing on the stock market.

But the proposed water sale has been widely perceived to be unnecessary and there have been public fears that land owned by the water companies could be sold to property developers.

The privatisation aroused considerable unpopularity even before the announcement in late July that the water companies would be allowed to impose big price rises after privatisation.

The huge electricity sell-off, involving the restructuring of the whole industry, could run into snags over the dismantling of old nuclear power stations and the details of contracts between electricity generating and distributing companies.

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Manila seeks loans, debt relief from banks

MANILA (R) — The Philippines is asking for new loans and debt relief to help bridge a \$1.7-billion financing gap when it opens debt talks with foreign banks in New York Tuesday, government officials and foreign bankers said.

Foreign economic experts said Manila would probably be the next country to benefit from a U.S.-sponsored plan to shrink Third World debt. Mexico became the first when it signed an agreement with its commercial banks on July 25.

Manila's commercial creditors do not want to give new money or forgive debt, but the experts said the banks would probably agree to a bit of both to show support for Philippine economic reforms and because Washington is committed to the debt plan.

"The Philippines will get new money and some debt reduction, but it will be very different in design" from the Mexico accord, said a Western economic expert close to the talks.

The Philippines' foreign debt totals \$28 billion including \$13 billion owed to commercial creditors.

The head negotiator, Central Bank Governor Jose Fernandez, says only \$7 billion in medium- and long-term loans from banks would be eligible for any debt reduction scheme.

Foreign Secretary Raul Manglapus says he expects the U.S. treasury to exert influence on the banks to ensure the debt talks succeed.

"It is to the interest of the U.S. to have its policy succeed so that other experiments, other applications may also have a good start with the positive example of Mexico and, hopefully, the Philippines," he told reporters Friday.

The plan proposed last March by U.S. Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady recognises that the banks' past practice of piling debt on top of existing debt fails to resolve and often exacerbates the Third World's economic woes.

Washington will probably be unwilling to apply as much pressure on behalf of the Philippines as it did for Mexico, whose economy has a far more direct impact on

the United States.

Manila, the world's fourth biggest debtor, has some important cards to play in New York.

Other big debtors like Brazil and Argentina are not yet prepared to present comprehensive proposals to creditors and the government of President Corason Aquino has received a seal of good housekeeping this year from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

It has also managed for the first time since the early 1980s to reach its own tax-collection target, a source of long-standing concern for the IMF and major donor countries.

Western financial experts say the IMF has urged Manila to impose higher taxes next year to boost revenues, but Aquino, afraid of public reaction, said she would try to avoid that by improving existing tax collection.

The World Bank said Manila had set an extremely ambitious target and gained fiscal credibility by exceeding it so far.

In the first half of the year, the government collected 39.3 billion pesos (\$1.67 billion) in income, excise and value-added taxes, surpassing its target by 1.7 per cent and marking a 24.6-per-cent increase over collection in the corresponding period of last year, Bureau of Internal Revenue figures showed.

Wage demands spark concern in Europe

LONDON (R) — A sliding dollar and lower world oil prices have taken the sting out of inflation in Western Europe but economists say the threat of excessive wage demands will prevent a rapid decline in interest rates.

Despite a steady fall in U.S. interest rates and growing optimism among economic forecasters that the European inflation cycle may be near its peak, monetary authorities are expected to continue their credit squeeze through the summer.

"From a short-term point of view, we may have seen a peak in inflation," said Mark Cliffe, chief economist at Nomura Research Institute in London.

"But monetary authorities are concerned the underlying rate of inflation, and particularly labour costs, could creep up."

The note of caution was hammered home at the mid-July summit of leading industrial democracies in Paris where leaders spoke in their communiques of the need for continued vigilance in the fight against inflation.

Britain and West Germany, emphasising price dangers far more than the United States, where the desire not to stall economic growth has now taken priority, have given no hint of relaxing their tight monetary policy since the summit.

Monetary officials in Europe display a growing sense of relief that price pressures from abroad are moderating but say the key to controlling inflation now lies in preventing a further twist to the spiral from wage demands at home.

A surge in import prices, caused mainly by the dollar's rally earlier this year and a sharp rise in the cost of oil, has begun to abate, suggesting that at least external factors fuelling inflation now pose less of a threat.

That is starting to show up in statistics, with inflation in the 12-nation European Community (EC) steady at an average year-on-year rate of 5.4 per cent in June.

Credit Suisse first Boston economist Jonathan Hoffman argues that provisional price data showing West Germany's July inflation rate at 3.2 per cent could be revised below three per cent when final figures come through next week.

He forecasts that the Consumer Price Index could fall back to 2.5 to 2.6 per cent by January when, for statistical reasons, ex-

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Iran to set up ship yard at Bushehr

NICOSIA (R) — Iran's Marine Industrial Company is to establish a yard to build ships and drilling rigs at the southern port city of Bushehr within the next 20 months, the Iranian News Agency (IRNA) reported. It said the yard would be set up in cooperation with an unnamed Finnish company at a cost of nine billion rials (about \$120 million). IRNA quoted an official of the Iranian company as saying the yard would be capable of building and repairing ships of up to 6,000 tons. Its first contracts would involve drilling rigs of around 8,000 tonnes, he said.

'Mexican concessions won't be repeated'

SANTIAGO, Chile (AP) — Citibank President John Reed has said that concessions made by creditor banks in an accord with Mexico won't be repeated for other debtor countries. The U.S. banker made his comments at a Chilean-American Chamber of Commerce meeting. He is on a tour of several Latin American countries, including Venezuela, which is seeking a refinancing of its debt. He said he is being asked if other countries will get the same kind of relief that Mexico received, which included a 35 per cent reduction in its obligations and \$2.3 billion in fresh credit. "It was a plan especially for Mexico," he said. "Personally, I don't believe there will be another of this type. Really, there won't be another. There are certain things that were done in that case which I don't think the banks will do again. We have learned that they are very difficult transactions." Reed said. He said the accord required the abandoning of about \$15 billion in claims by creditor banks, "and that comes directly from the banks' shareholders." About 30 per cent of the loss in earnings was absorbed by U.S. banks and the rest by European and Japanese banks, he said.

Polish trains stop in pay dispute

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — State rail workers in southwest Poland idled passenger and freight trains for one hour Saturday, the latest in a series of strikes for raises to counter the country's triple-digit inflation. Meanwhile, newly elected Prime Minister Czeslaw Kiszczak met with several representatives from the opposition Solidarity movement as he tried to assemble a government to deal with the critical economic situation. And new Communist Party Chief Mieczyslaw Rakowski met with party activists from the army and urged them to be proud of the party, and defend it against "demagogic attacks." The nighttime rail stoppage affected all domestic rail traffic in the Silesia region, except for certain trains taking children to summer camp, according to reports on the official media and from the Solidarity Information Service. State television said about 80 trains, serving Wroclaw, Katowice, Opole, Cieszynowice and other cities in the region, were stopped. The strike was supported both by the Solidarity and the official Communist-aligned trade unions. According to Jan Renda, leader of a strike committee in Katowice, workers now receive only 50,000 zlotys (\$60) a month in basic pay, although they also receive overtime and various differentials and bonuses. The rail workers demanded that basic monthly pay be more than doubled.

Domestic consumption to spur Seoul

SEOUL (R) — South Korea is turning to domestic consumers to spur its economy because exports could fall short of government expectations, the deputy trade minister has said. Kim Chul-su told reporters trading firms would be lucky to realise the government's forecast of \$68 billion worth of exports this year, despite downward in June from \$70 billion. "It will be difficult to achieve \$68 billion in exports," Kim said, adding that July's customs-cleared export growth was the lowest in two years. Exports in July were a provisional \$5.24 billion from \$5.2 billion in the same 1988 period, while exports expanded to \$5.14 billion from \$4.49 billion last year. Economic planners said appreciation of the South Korean won from early last year, wage increases and falling investment in export-oriented firms were to blame. Kim said rising demand for imported consumer goods in the first six months of this year reflected a changing economic scene — imports of consumer goods rose a dramatic 33.3 per cent while capital goods and raw materials saw a respective 14.5 and 21.6 per cent rise.

U.S. in first debt-for-nature deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agency for International Development (USAID) has announced the U.S. government's first participation in buying Third World debt so that the money can be used in preserving the debtor country's environment. The \$1 million grant will help the government of Madagascar, the big island republic off the east coast of Africa. It has an estimated 150,000 species of plants and animals found only in Madagascar. This is the first "debt-for-nature" deal in Africa. There have been eight earlier swaps, most of them in Latin America. The World Wildlife Fund, which has taken part in most of them, estimates that they will relieve the debtor countries of \$27 million worth of debt. Rep. John Porter, who has helped arrange the deals, told reporters that they will not solve the Third World's debt problem, but show how far conservation can be encouraged by use of it. The World Bank estimates total Third World debt at \$1.3 trillion. Leon Rajabellina, Madagascar's ambassador in Washington, said his country owes \$2.5 billion. Sen. Robert W. Kasten Jr. said the next step is to get the World Bank and other international banks owned by governments to take part in future deals.

ARCO reports big oil find in Alaska

LOS ANGELES (R) — Atlantic Richfield Co (ARCO) said Friday a new well being tested in Alaska is the largest found in the United States since 1982. Tests on the Point McIntyre Well, two miles (three kilometres) north of the Alaskan oil centre of Prudhoe Bay, showed oil flowing at a generous rate of 5,400 barrels a day, underscoring Alaska's importance to U.S. self-sufficiency in energy. The Point McIntyre field is the nation's largest since the Point Pedernales field was found off California in 1982 and the largest Alaskan discovery since the Endicott field in 1978, said Susan Andrews, spokeswoman for ARCO's Alaska unit. Daily output of Alaskan oil is about two million barrels, representing about one-quarter of U.S. domestic output. An ARCO spokesman said preliminary tests indicated a high recovery rate, which could ultimately reach about 300 million barrels during the life of the well.

Hong Kong banks cut deposit rates

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's leading banks announced Friday they would lower their prime lending rate half a percentage point to 10 per cent, effective Monday. Interest paid on savings accounts and all deposits also were lowered half a percentage point across the board. The Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Standard Chartered Bank, the colony's two note-issuing banks, announced the change in the prime rate. The Hong Kong Association of Banks, which represents all other commercial banks, disclosed the changes in deposit rates. The move marks the third prime-rate cut in less than two months. Banks last cut their rate on July 10 from 11 per cent to 10.5 per cent. Hong Kong's prime lending rate, on what banks charge their top customers, stand at its lowest level since mid-February.

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| Sunday, August 6, 1989 | | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------|-------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Central Bank official rates | | | | |
| | Buy | Sell | Japanese yen (for 100) | 414.8 415.9 |
| U.S. dollar | 581.1 | 586.1 | Dutch guilder | 269.9 272.6 |
| Swiss franc | 931.8 | 941.1 | Swedish crown | 89.4 90.3 |
| Deutsche mark | 394.5 | 397.5 | Italian lira (for 100) | 82.4 82.7 |
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مكتبة الأمل

Commonwealth ministers act to avoid black boycott

CANBERRA (R) — Eight foreign ministers will discuss Monday a plan to save next year's Commonwealth Games from boycotts, particularly by African states protesting over a planned tour of South Africa by rebel English cricketers.

The plan to save the games, to be held in Auckland, New Zealand, in January, has been drawn up for discussion among Commonwealth foreign ministers meeting to talk about ways to tighten economic sanctions against South Africa.

"We are worried about the possibility of a games boycott," said Canadian Foreign Minister Joe Clark, chairman of the three-day meeting, also to be attended by Australia, Guyana, India, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"I hope we can begin discussion of some measures which are designed principally to strengthen the institution of the Commonwealth Games. But I think they might also have the effect of making the games seem valuable enough that the threat of boycott might decline," Clark told reporters.

He declined to reveal the contents of the plan but said he expected it to be ready for approval by the full Commonwealth heads of government meeting in Malaysia in October. Clark said that in essence it would involve lesser developed members of the Commonwealth, a grouping of nearly 50 former British colonies and dominions, receiving financial and technical

aid to become more involved in participating in the games. It is harder for developing countries to fund them or to set in place the expertise. I think we can do something about that to make sure the games become practical for a wide range of countries of the Commonwealth," Clark said.

He said he had already discussed the plan with other foreign ministers, including New Zealand's Russell Marshall, who will be attending the Canberra meeting as an observer, along with Malaysia.

Developing countries staged a mass boycott of the previous games, at Edinburgh in 1986, over Britain's refusal to tighten economic sanctions, which Britain felt would harm blacks in South Africa more than whites.

British authorities have denounced the rebel English cricket tour, which includes many of the country's top players and will take place over the next two South African seasons. It has raised the prospect of another boycott.

"I think that the threat of boycott is declining but I think there is certainly a real need to strengthen the institution of the games," Clark said.

The foreign ministers also have on their agenda a plan to tighten economic sanctions by forming a new body to monitor and publicise international banks' dealings with Africa, which has a foreign debt of \$24 billion.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

ERICSSON WINS ARGENTINE MOTOR RALLY: Swede Mikael Ericsson won the Argentine motor rally Saturday to lead a sweep of the top three places for the Lancia team. Ericsson, driving a Lancia Delta Integrale, finished two minutes 26 seconds ahead of Alessandro Fiorio of Italy with an overall time of seven hours six minutes. The victory moved him up to fifth place in the drivers' standings with 30 points. Local favourite Jorge Recalde, the defending champion who led the first two legs, could not make up for time lost when his car's lubrication system failed in the third leg and finished third more than 11 minutes behind Fiorio. (R)

THREE GOLDS FOR NIGERIAN WOMEN: Nigeria's women athletes won three gold medals on the second day of the African championships in Lagos Saturday and put the host country ahead in the chase for places in the Africa team for next month's world cup in Barcelona. Mary Onyiah led the way as expected in the 100 metres with 11.22 seconds, but it was outside her African record of 11.09. Falilat Ogunkoya took the 400 metres gold with 51.22 and Maria Ugofo won the 400 metres hurdles in 55.45. In the men's 400 metres, Gabriel Tiacho of the Ivory Coast capitalised on the absence of injured Nigerian Innocent Egbunike and snatched home in 45.25. (R)

GRAF STORMS TO FINALS: Top-seeded Steffi Graf of West Germany surrendered just six points on her serve in defeating Bettina Bunge 6-1, 6-2 Saturday to advance to the finals of the great American Bank Tennis Classic in San Diego. Graf, playing in her first tournament since successfully defending her Wimbledon title last month, will play the winner of the second semifinal between second-seeded Zina Garrison and no. 6 Nathalie Tauziat of France in Sunday's final. Bunge, a West German native who now resides in Monaco, was making her first singles tournament appearance since 1987. She gave Graf her toughest test thus far by taking three games from the world's top-ranked woman player in a 62-minute match. Graf's longest previous match in the tournament lasted only 43 minutes. (AP)

Europa track and field cup

Akabusi takes U.K. out front



Triumph: Kris Akabusi sent the home crowd wild with a surprise win in the 400 metre hurdles over the German.

GATESHEAD, England (AP) — Britain, which has never reached the world track and field cup final, held an impressive 11-point lead over defending champion the Soviet Union at the end of the first day of the Europa Cup at the international stadium on Saturday.

British men won five of the 10 events to total 63 points. The Soviet Union had 52 points and East Germany, which has won the cup seven times, was third at 50.

The powerful East German women's team, defending the title they won in 1987, also held an 11-point lead in their competition with 52 points. The Soviet women were second with 41 points and Britain was third at 38, two ahead of West Germany.

The top two nations in both competitions qualify for the final in Barcelona, Spain, September 8-10.

The British team, spurred on by an enthusiastic crowd of 11,000, began the day with a surprise victory in the opening track event, the men's 400 metres hurdles, when Kris Akabusi beat West German Harald Schmid. Schmid had been bidding for his fifth victory in the event.

Britain's other victories came from Olympic silver medalist Lin-

ford Christie, who won the 100 metres in 10.33 seconds; Steve Backley, who won the javelin with a throw of 82.92 metres (272 feet, 1 inch); Dalton Grant, who won the high jump with a British record of 2.32 metres (7 feet, 7 1/4 inches); and the 4-by-100 metres relay squad.

The Soviet Union's only winner was Vladimir Rastukov with a long jump of 8.09 metres (26 feet, 6 1/2 inches). East Germany's only victor was Ulf Timmermann, a world record holder and Olympic champion who won the shot put with the best outdoor throw in the world this year — 21.72 metres (71 feet, 3 3/4 inches).

The other winners were Italy's Francesco Panatta in the 10,000 metres; France's Pascal Thiébaud who stormed ahead of a six-man pack in the final 50 metres to win the 1,500 metres and West Germany's Edgar Itt 400 metres.

Kathrin Krabbe, 19, the junior world record holder, gave East Germany a predictable winning

start in the women's competition, taking the 100 metres in 11.14 seconds. Britain's Paula Dunn (11.24), nipped Irina Sergeeva of the Soviet Union (11.26) for second place.

There were also wins for Petra Krug in the 400 metres hurdles with a time of 54.72 and Grit Breuer, the world junior champion, in the 400 metres with a time of 50.52.

The East German sprint relay team won their event in 41.87 seconds, the fastest time in the world this year.

There was also an impressive win for Ilke Wyluda, who has set 11 world junior records. Still only 20, she won the discus with a throw of 73.04 metres (239 feet, 8 1/2 inches) — almost 11 metres (36 feet) further than second placed Tzvetanka Christova of Bulgaria, who threw 62.26 metres.

Romanian Doina Melinte, the 1984 Olympic champion, upset East German Sigrid Wodars, the reigning Olympic champion with a victory in the 800 metres. Paula Ivan gave Romania its other victory, winning the 3,000 metres in 8 minutes 38.48 seconds, the third best time of 1989.

Lemond wants to find American team

MONTREAL (AP) — Tour De France champion Greg Lemond said Saturday he hopes to race for an American team next season, but that such a team wouldn't have to be stocked only with American riders.

"It's unrealistic to think you can win a race like the Tour De France with an all-American team," Lemond said after arriving in Montreal for Sunday's Grand Prix Des Ameriques, the seventh event on the new cycling world cup circuit.

"We don't have that depth of quality in the United States. You need some European riders to give you that depth."

American teams are on Lemond's mind since he won the Tour De France from Frenchman Laurent Fignon on the final day of the three-week race on July 23. Lemond, 28, is seeking to leave the ADR team from Belgium and said he wants to race for an American squad or, if not, a French team.

"I haven't decided yet, but most likely it's going to be an American team," he said. "I want to come back. I've raced in Europe a long time and I think for cycling in America, it's better for me to be associated with an American team."

Rumours surfaced last week that the U.S.-based 7-11 team had offered Lemond a \$1.1 million contract, the richest in the sport, and that Lemond may form his own team with his sponsor,

Coors. International professional cycling union rules prohibit making offers to another team's riders while they are still under contract. Lemond admitted only that he was in negotiations to change teams.

ADR, owned by a Belgian car rental company, reportedly has been as much as a month late in payments to its riders all season.

"My contract has been continuously broken since January 1," Lemond said. "And I'm not the only one on the team, so..."

Lemond said with a grin that 7-11 was strong enough to win a Tour De France "If I'm on it."

"Andy Hampsten is a big talent, he's won the tour of Italy. They've got some good riders but they are not exclusively American. They've got a mixture of riders."

The 7-11 team includes Alex Stedra and Brian Walton of Canada as well as Dag-Otto Lauritzen of Norway and Jens Veggerby of Denmark.

In 1986, Lemond became the first rider from outside the traditional cycling powers of France, Spain, Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands and West Germany to win the Tour De France.

In April, 1987, he was accidentally shot in the abdomen while hunting with his brother-in-law. In slow recovery and return to form was capped with his second Tour De France win.

Jesse Owens: only a concrete patch away from obscurity

OAKVILLE, Alabama (AP) — On an isolated cement patch in the middle of northwest Alabama farm country, young and old gather each day to play basketball at the one reminder of Jesse Owens' birthplace.

Jesse Owens Memorial Park stands alongside Lawrence County 61 in the heart of Oakville, a community so small it doesn't warrant a traffic light and some state highway maps don't even list it.

The park is the centre of life in Oakville; nearly everyone comes out on the weekends to play basketball or pass the time with their neighbours. But some people complain that local officials have not done enough to remember one of the world's greatest athletes, the man who defied Adolf Hitler's twisted dreams of Aryan superiority at the 1936 Olympic Games.

"He did a lot to help black people get into sports," said 31-year-old Jerome Fitzgerald, Owens' second cousin. "Back then, blacks couldn't compete because everyone thought they were inferior. He opened the door for all sports."

"Other athletes have gotten more attention, and their accomplishments are not as high as what Jesse Owens did."

The park is actually a small patch of grass less than half as long as the 10-metre track at

Berlin where Owens blazed to a world record at the 1936 Olympics and earned one of his four gold medals.

In a corner is a brick wall with an enclosed glass case containing newspaper and magazine articles describing Owens' brilliant athletic career.

One photo shows him with Lutz Long, a German athlete who befriended Owens during the broad jump competition when it appeared the American star might foul out.

Long's advice helped Owens win with a jump sportswriter Grantland Rice said seemed to take him "clear out of Germany." Owens also won the 200-metre dash and the 400-metre relay.

There is a photo of Owens with his parents, Henry and Emma Owens, who were Alabama sharecroppers when their son was born in Oakville in 1913. The family moved to Ohio in the early 1920s.

"My only regret is that he never came back to Oakville," said Fitzgerald, who never got a chance to meet his cousin before he died in 1980. "He should have come back here to acknowledge his people."

Next to the photo case is a granite monument dedicated in 1983. The inscription reads:

"He inspired a world enslaved in tyranny and brought hope to

his fellow man... from the cotton fields of Oakville to the acclaim of the entire world, he made us all proud to be called Lawrence Countians."

The monument was intended for the county seat of Monfiston, about 10 miles away. But county commissioners, amid allegations of racism, blocked an effort to put the memorial on the courthouse lawn in 1983, so it wound up on the half-acre donated by a black Masonic Lodge.

The main attraction at Jesse Owens Park is a concrete court with a pair of aging basketball goals at opposite ends.

Each day, dozens of people, ranging from schoolchildren to grown men, gather for friendly — but very competitive — games just a few hundred yards from the site where Owens was born 76 years ago.

"Even people who are not related to him are proud of him. proud to have this here," Fitzgerald said after coming off the court on a recent summer day. "But I'm sure everybody feels more could be done."

The basketball goals could use new nets and rims. And the players have to be careful if they go diving for loose balls on the side of the court where a barbed wire fence stands just a few feet away.

Fitzgerald said he would like to see the park expanded, perhaps to include a playground and bicycle trail.

"If we had a larger park, we might get more people down here in the community from the surrounding areas," he said. "We might even start a few businesses. All we've got now is a few homes and this park."

County commissioner Larry Louallen of Moulton, who represents the district that includes Oakville, said the county is not obligated to care for the park.

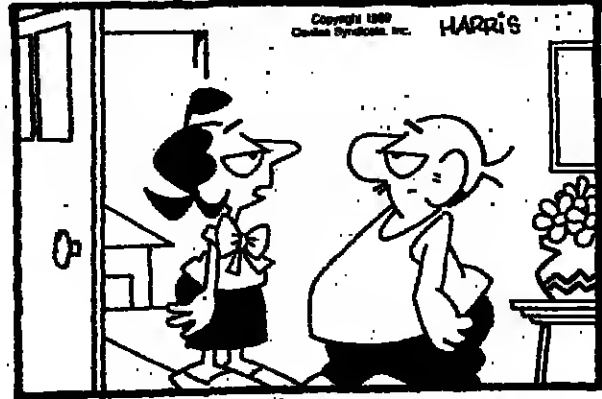
PASSPORT LOST

Mr. M.D. Mamun Hossain, Bangladesh nationality. Passport No. C-492128 has been lost.

If found please contact telephone No. 741764.

Thanks.

THE BETTER HALF, By Harris



"I have to work late. Want me to hire someone for you to argue with while I'm gone?"

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAISE
SIDAY
BEFILE
MOUFAS



WOMEN USE PERFUME BECAUSE SOME MEN ARE EASILY THIS.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

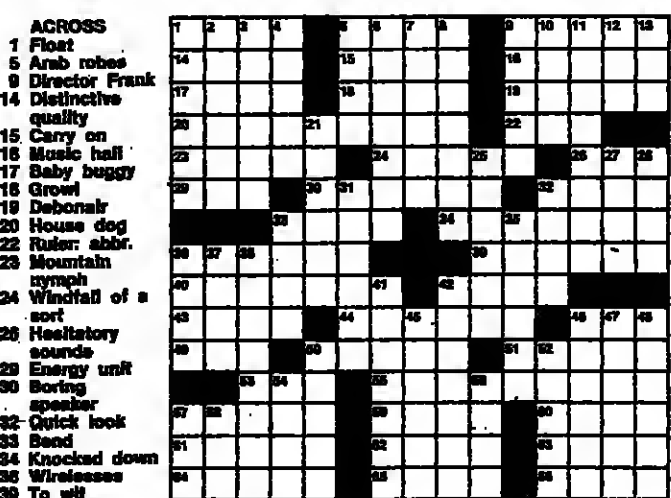
Print answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: EVOKE DRAHL WEAPON ARTERY

Answer: Her strong will dominated this HIS WEAK "WONT"

HOROSCOPE NOT RECEIVED

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



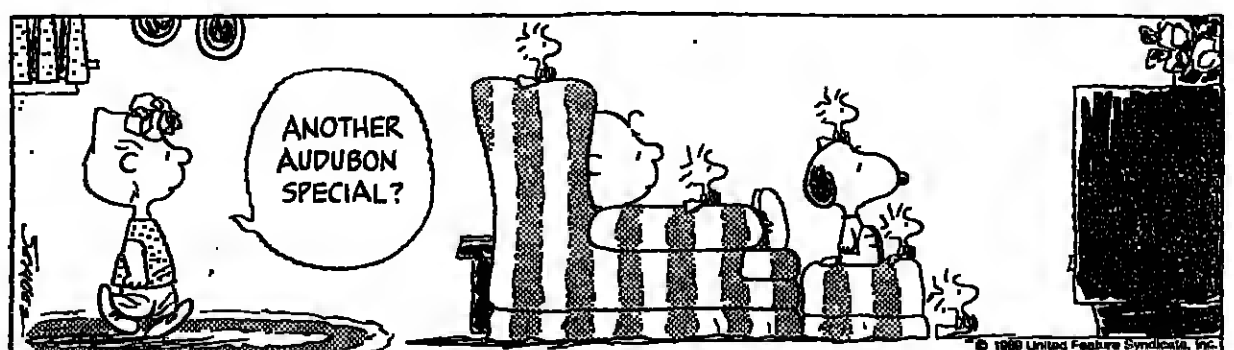
ACROSS

1. Fleet
2. Arab robes
3. Director Frank
4. Distinctive quality
5. Carry on
6. Music hall
7. Baby buggy
8. Growl
9. Debonair
10. House dog
11. Ruler abbr.
12. Mountain nymph
13. Windfall of a sort
14. Heedless
15. Energy unit
16. Boring
17. Quick look
18. Bend
19. Knocked down
20. Wireless
21. To wit
22. Britpop's insignia
23. Throw over
24. Beehive state
25. An Alcott
26. Scores: abbr.
27. Singer Frankie
28. Five: pref.
29. More calm
30. Scot. port
31. Strabismus
32. G.I. —
33. TV's "12"
34. Playroom feature
35. Irritant
36. Furrow
37. One of 44A's
38. Major
39. 94 shares of stock e.g.
40. Planet
41. 27 spots
42. Hunt for
43. Bono
44. Auction
45. Pageantry
46. Flourish
47. "Broadway Joe"
48. Vanquish
49. Plaster
50. Unwanted
51. aptide
52. Short poems

DOWN

1. Hawk or owl
2. Dawn goddess
3. Wom
4. FL city
5. Using the phone
6. More's novel
7. Streamed
8. Picked
9. 67 Pacino and
10. Hit
11. Arctic explorer
12. Antique car
13. 54 Pasadena Gulf state
14. WWII craft
15. Pacino and
16. Hit
17. Arctic explorer
18. Antique car

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp





Heavy monsoons and unruly rivers have always been an annual event in many Asian countries. Photo shows a mother cleaning her house while her children holds an umbrella to shield themselves from a leaking roof.

Fresh floods hit Bangladesh

DHAKA (Agencies) — Eight more people have drowned, bringing the death toll to nearly 200, and half a million people have been stranded by floods in northeast Bangladesh, according to officials.

In the worst-hit Zakiganj district 200,000 people were marooned.

Other areas flooded by the rain-swollen Kishoreganj river included the Balaganj, Fenchuganj and Baniabazar areas of the tea-growing Sylhet district.

"The courage of the people and the sincerity of the government helped us survive a much worse flooding last year. We shall face it boldly this year too," President Hossain Mohammad Ershad said during a visit to Zakiganj Saturday.

State television showed the president travelling on a military vessel and reassuring marooned villagers that no one would starve or die for lack of medical care.

More than 5,000 people took shelter in makeshift camps but local officials said food and other supplies were inadequate.

"Dozens of remote villages have been cut off for days with people trapped in houses waist or shoulder-deep in water," one official said. Shortages of drinking water have caused many to come down with diarrhoea in some of the stricken areas, he added.

The flood control centre in Dhaka said more than 100,000 people were driven from their homes by the floods in 11 north-eastern and central districts.

Floods in 1988, the worst for 40 years, killed at least 3,000, made millions homeless and destroyed three million tonnes of rice.

New reports reaching Dhaka said at least 200 people died in the latest floods and related incidents in the area during the past two weeks.

The government has sent 12 medical teams to Zakiganj.

'Quebec issue' back in Canadian politics

MONTREAL (AP) — The Quebec issue in Canadian politics, thought to be diminishing since provincial voters rejected separatism nearly a decade ago, has returned.

A recent Gallup Poll that sent shock waves rumbling across the country found that 28 per cent of Canadians believe French-speaking Quebec should become an independent country.

The outcome, according to Gallup, was the strongest support for separatism nationally since the company's pollsters first asked the question more than 20 years ago.

Perhaps the most startling finding from the 1,034 Canadians polled was that 27 per cent of English-speaking Canadians favoured the province's separation. The level of support for separatism among French-speaking Canadians was 36 per cent.

There long has been resentment in parts of English-speaking Canada, especially in the West, of what is perceived as favouritism or special treatment for Quebec. But the percentage of those who would just as soon see it leave had not been perceived to be that high.

"The heartbeat of the nation is strong, it's vigorous and it's resolved to even greater unity," Prime Minister Brian Mulroney, who is a Quebec native, told reporters after the Gallup Poll was published.

Mulroney conceded that some linguistic tensions exist in Canada but said that always has been the case in national history.

"Years from now, a Canadian prime minister will be standing here with a Canada that is even more prosperous and more united, and people will be asking him the same question — 'some-one went out and did a poll'..." he said.

Indeed, a focus in the Canadian news media on the national issue may be as much a result of a languid summer season without much else attracting attention as to any concrete developments in Quebec.

Quebec Premier Robert Bourassa appears virtually certain to win the election expected in early fall, possibly with an even greater margin of victory for his provincial Liberal Party than in 1985 when it won 99 of 122 seats in the Quebec legislature.

The Parti Quebecois that found success with its separatist message in the 1970s has fallen on hard times, and the economic prosperity that has lasted in Quebec along with most of Canada for seven years makes this an unlikely time for a comeback.

54 killed in 2 days in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO (R) — Fifty-four people, including a senior Buddhist monk, have been killed in Sri Lanka in the past two days by left-wing rebels and pro-government militia, military sources said Sunday.

The sources said Pokuri Banda Hemaloka — chief priest of a temple at Pattalam, 120 kilometres north of Colombo — was the second Buddhist monk to be killed by the leftist people's Liberation Front (JVP). They could give no reason for the killing.

The front Thursday shot dead a 72-year-old priest who praised President Ranasinghe Premadasa last week for averting a confrontation with India on the withdrawal of Indian troops.

The JVP, through a campaign of killings and general strikes, is trying to wrest power from Premadasa's government.

It is also vehemently opposed to the presence of 45,000 Indian troops, there to implement an agreement with the government in the Tamil-dominated north and east. Colombo has recently put pressure on New Delhi to withdraw the troops.

A government statement said the killings by subversives — a reference to the front — occurred across the island. Most of the victims were local government officials and supporters.

The military sources said pro-government "groups" were responsible for killing 10 JVP supporters in southern and central provinces Saturday night.

"Their bodies were found on the roadside," one source said.

Opposition groups have accused the government of using underground groups to hunt the front.

At a special meeting Monday, Premadasa will meet his ministers to discuss the outcome of failed talks with New Delhi on the pullout of Indian troops.

Soviet miners return to work

MOSCOW (AP) — Coal miners who walked off their jobs because they lacked a copy of newly won government concessions returned to work Sunday, once the document was delivered, TASS reported.

The official Soviet news agency said all mines and associated coal facilities of the Arctic Vorkuta region resumed work at midnight.

Miners in 11 of the Pechora coal basin's 13 mines about 1,800 kilometres northeast of Moscow walked off their jobs Saturday in a renewal of the labour unrest that wracked the Soviet Union last month.

The miners agreed at a meeting Friday night to stay off the job until they receive the full text of a government decree that Soviet officials say fulfills the promises they made to get the miners to return to work.

After the earlier round of strikes, the government agreed to bonuses for night work and miners using air hammers, improvements in pensions and overtime, and made general pledges to improve housing and end food and consumer goods shortages.

An instructor in the organisational department of the local Communist Party headquarters said in a telephone interview that a director of the state-run enterprise that operates all 13 mines brought a copy of the decree from Moscow and explained it to the workers.

Hiroshima remembers the bomb 44 years later

HIROSHIMA, Japan (AP) — Hiroshima halted for a moment of silence Sunday morning to mark the 44th anniversary of the first atomic bomb attack and to appeal for peace.

As a single bell tolled and more than 1,000 doves were released into the skies, 50,000 people gathered in Hiroshima's Peace Memorial Park to mark the moment a U.S. B-29 bomber carried out the world's first atomic attack.

At 8:15 a.m. (0115 GMT), the precise moment when the bomb exploded in a flash of blinding light Aug. 6, 1945, Hiroshima citizens, Japanese government officials and visitors from throughout the world bowed their heads in silent prayer while buses and streetcars stood still throughout the city of one million.

The explosion and ensuing heat wave reduced to rubble and ashes a large portion of the city, a major military centre during World War II. About 140,000 people perished in the firestorm that engulfed the city.

"Our country, as the sole nation to have suffered an atomic attack, is determined that the tragedies of Hiroshima and Nagasaki should never be repeated," Prime Minister Sounkei Uno told the crowd, many of whom were dressed in black under a sweltering sun.

"We strongly feel the duty to use Hiroshima to sound an alarm bell for the future of all humanity. From now on, Japan must carry out more aggressive diplomacy for peace and security in the world," said Uno, who has announced he soon will resign.

A group of visiting mayors, including Anne Rudin of Sacramento, California, and Herbert Schmalstieg of Hannover, West Germany, presented a large wreath of yellow chrysanthemums, the traditional mourning flower, to the victims of the bombing at their official monument, a granite cenotaph in the centre of the park.

Outside the ceremony, hundreds of boy scouts handed visitors fresh flowers while protesters handed out leaflets criticising alleged government laxity in preventing U.S. warships from bringing nuclear weapons into the country contrary to government policy.

Korean residents of Japan distributed pamphlets demanding the government apologise for its aggression against fellow Asians in World War II and other conflicts.

Korean victims of the Hiroshima blast also charge they have been discriminated against by the city. They say they were forced to build a Korean monument to bomb survivors on a lot near the Peace Memorial Park in 1970 after the Hiroshima government barred its construction in the park.

The city's Atom Bomb Museum was criticised for calling the Korean victims, forced under colonial rule to labour in Japan, "voluntary workers." The museum later removed the references.

"Hiroshima must continue to toll its warning at home and abroad until a new world order is established founded on co-existence and prosperity for all humankind," said Araki, an A-bomb survivor.

At the memorial service, 4,244 names of those exposed to the bomb who died in the last year were added to a tablet in the cenotaph.

Although it is difficult to determine which deaths are directly related to the bomb, researchers believe the risk of death from leukemia, and lung, breast and bone cancer is greater for those exposed to the bomb than for those who were not.

Three days after Hiroshima, the United States dropped a second atom bomb on the scenic coastal city of Nagasaki, killing another 70,000 civilians. Japan surrendered unconditionally Aug. 15, 1945, ending the war.

Crack commando troops in Punjab flush-out operation

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — About 950 commandos have moved into grassy wetlands in the northern state of Punjab to flush out Sikh extremists, according to the state police chief.

The joint operation by 200 heavily armed national security guards and 750 Punjab state police commandos began Friday night in the Mand area of Punjab, Police Chief K.P.S. Gill said.

The 90-square-kilometre grassy land bisected by the Sutlej River is believed to contain hideouts of the extremists waging a guerrilla war since 1982 for an independent nation.

While the commandos moved in from Amritsar and burned grass to expose the hideouts, the rest of the force surrounded and sealed Mand, Gill said in an interview.

He refused to say when the offensive would end.

The searchers are armed with night vision devices, 50 high speed motor boats, Uzi sub-machine guns, light machine guns and hand grenades, he said.

Gill said the operation was the fourth in Mand in four years. This year's was the first in Mand involving the national security guards, known as "black cats" because of their black uniforms.

The force was set up after Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's assassination by two Sikh bodyguards Oct. 30, 1984.

Friday's offensive followed intelligence reports that "about 250 terrorists had infiltrated the area with huge quantities of sophisticated arms, including Stinger missiles," Gill said.

The Amritsar districts lies on the border with Pakistan. India says Sikh extremists move freely across the border, often to seek refuge in neighbouring country.

India says the extremists bring arms from Pakistan and receive military training there. Pakistan has repeatedly denied the charge.

The commando operation came after a lull last week in killings by Sikh extremists. The government says at least 1,105 people have died in the separatist war this year.

In their latest violence, suspected Sikh extremists set off a bomb on a rail track Saturday that exploded minutes after a passenger train passed over it, police said.

The blast at the Jhandiala railroad station, 22 kilometres north of Amritsar, left a hole 45 centimetres wide, said Anil Sharma, a senior police officer.

The extremists want to set up an independent nation in the rich farming state of Punjab, claiming the Sikh community is discriminated against culturally and socially by the Hindu-controlled government.

China removes shroud over deaths in nuclear accident

BEIJING (AP) — China Saturday disclosed for the first time that 20 people died and 1,200 suffered radiation-related illnesses in nuclear accidents in the first half of the decade.

However, the report did not list specific incidents and their death and injury tolls between 1980 and 1985.

The official China Daily quoted Luo Guozhen of the state Environmental Protection Bureau as saying China needed stricter control over the handling of radioactive waste. He also said the government plans to build more disposal sites to handle the material.

China has no operating nuclear power plants. Most of its nuclear waste so far has been generated by the military, but increasing amounts are being produced by scientific labs, hospitals and non-military industries.

Several accidents involving nuclear waste have been reported in the past, but there have been no official disclosures of deaths.

Luo told the paper that ignorance about the dangers of nuclear materials and managers who ignored regulations on handling radioactive waste had caused radiation leaks.

In February, the China Daily reported an accident that occurred last December, when some uranium was lost from a factory and 15 people were exposed to radiation. One man suffered third-degree burns, the report said.

In 1986, an article by Zhou Zhunou of the Ministry of Nuclear Industry's Bureau of Safety, Protection and Health said there were cases of exposure to radiation when China's nuclear industry started up in the mid-1950s.

It said that during the 1966-76 Cultural Revolution, when scientists and technology were ridiculed in political campaigns, a serious accident took place at a production reactor.

Zhou said that about 10 people suffered from overexposure to radiation in that accident and that another man got uranium poisoning in an accident in 1973.

The Soviet Union has reported 31 deaths from the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear accident.

In the United States, one man died in an accident in 1986 at the Kerr-McGee atomic plant in Oklahoma and three people were killed by radiation at an experimental reactor in Idaho in 1961.

At the memorial service, 4,244 names of those exposed to the bomb who died in the last year were added to a tablet in the cenotaph.

Although it is difficult to determine which deaths are directly related to the bomb, researchers believe the risk of death from leukemia, and lung, breast and bone cancer is greater for those exposed to the bomb than for those who were not.

Three days after Hiroshima, the United States dropped a second atom bomb on the scenic coastal city of Nagasaki, killing another 70,000 civilians. Japan surrendered unconditionally Aug. 15, 1945, ending the war.



African leaders seek Mozambique peace

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Presidents Robert Mugabe of Zimbabwe and Daniel Arap Moi of Kenya were set to meet Monday for a new round of talks aimed at ending Mozambique's 12-year-old civil war.

The two presidents were expected to confer with Afonso Dhlakama, the head of the right-wing rebel movement known as RENAMO, and a group of Mozambican church leaders representing the government.

The RENAMO leader and government representatives were not expected to meet jointly with the presidents, but merely exchange proposals through them. A RENAMO statement issued Saturday in Lisbon, Portugal said Dhlakama would not talk directly with the church leaders.

In announcing his trip to Nairobi, Mugabe said the purpose was to "compare notes" with Moi on their joint initiative to end the Mozambican conflict. The two first discussed the problem in Zimbabwe's capital of Harare three weeks ago.

Mugabe's announcement came Saturday following a meeting with President Joaquim Chissano of Mozambique in Harare. Details of their discussions were not released.

Last month, Mugabe said Chissano asked him to join Moi in attempts to mediate an end to the war which has killed an estimated 100,000 people, made refugees of another 1.6 million and destroyed Mozambique's economy.

Dhlakama and the church delegation arrived in Nairobi late last week. They were originally scheduled to meet in Kenya's capital last month, but Dhlakama failed to show up.

The government representatives, Protestant and Catholic members of the Mozambique Christian council, were said to be carrying a 12-point peace plan from Chissano, but details of the proposal have not been made public.

Landlocked Zimbabwe has about 12,000 soldiers fighting alongside government forces in neighbouring Mozambique to protect its rail and highway links to the Indian Ocean.

RENAMO, formerly backed by the white-ruled governments of Rhodesia and South Africa, is no longer openly supported by any government and faces widespread charges of atrocities against Mozambican civilians.

20 years after the murders, Manson case still casts a spell

By Matthew Heller
Reuter

LOS ANGELES — Twenty years after the Tate-La Bianca murders shocked the world, devil worshippers have not forgotten Charles Manson.

The flood of fan mail that he receives in his jail cell every week includes letters from satanists who idolise one of America's most notorious killers.

Two decades later, Stephen Kay, one of the prosecutors who convicted Manson and others of the Tate-La Bianca murders, relives the case every time he argues against releasing one of the killers on parole.

"To me, it doesn't seem to have happened that long ago," he said.

The awful memories also

readily come back to Doris Tate, mother of the most famous victim, actress Sharon Tate, every time she counsels other parents of murdered children.

"I relive the case but at the same time I realise how important it is for these people to fight," she said.

The murderous two-day rampage through Los Angeles also casts a spell well beyond those personally involved in the case. For some, it stands out like some bloody exclamation mark at the end of the 1960s.

"This is looked at as the most famous case in U.S. criminal history," Kay said in an interview. "It's a case that seems to capture the imagination not only of American people but throughout the world."

"Creep-crawly" mission

It was early Aug. 9, 1969, that four members of Manson's "family" — on a "creep-crawly" mission — invaded the plush Beverly Hills estate rented by Tate and her husband, film director Roman Polanski. They butchered the 26-year-old starlet and four guests.

The following night, Manson himself tied up Rosemary and Leno Labianca, the owner of a supermarket chain, in their Los Angeles home and left his followers to carve them up with silverware from the Labianca kitchen.

Manson, Susan Atkins, Patricia Krenwinkel and Leslie van Houten were convicted of murder and sentenced to the gas chamber. But when California's death penalty law was invalidated in 1972, the sentences were commuted to indeterminate terms as long as life.

Parole

They have been eligible for parole since 1978 and the regular parole hearings help keep the case alive.

Now the 20th anniversary of the Tate-La Bianca murders is bringing public interest to a crescendo.

Kay says he has recently done television talk shows as far afield as Pittsburgh and San Francisco and received requests for interviews from TV stations in Britain and Australia.

Numerous reasons have

been advanced to explain why the case is so compelling.

There were the Hollywood celebrity victims, the gruesome details of the murders, and the young women from middle-class homes — with XS carved in their foreheads — who carried out Manson's wishes.

There was the bizarre motive. Borrowing liberally from various sources including the Book of Revelations, Manson planned to unleash a race war he called "helter skelter," which only he and his disciples would survive.

Some have theorised that the murders sounded the death-knell of the social revolution of the 1960s. Manson had simply taken the communal lifestyle of free sex and drugs to its violent extreme.

According to Ed Sanders, author of one of the numerous books on the case, it was "the death hippie."

Kay, a youthful 46-year-old who still manifests a grim intensity when he discusses the case, vehemently rejects that theory.

"Manson and the family hated hippies. They referred to themselves as 'slippies' because they were going to slip under the awareness of society."

"That's my bottom line," he says, pounding his desk. "They weren't hippies."

Kay is dedicated to keeping Manson — now 56 and jailed in a new maximum security prison in central California — and his "family" behind bars. The best way to do that, he

COLUMN

Stallone hasn't found Mrs. Right

NEW YORK (AP) — Sylvester Stallone says he isn't trying to avoid romantic commitments because of his failed marriage to Brigitte Nielsen. He just hasn't found the right woman. "I need something like Sister Mary Theresa and Madsen Curren and uh... Irma La Douce, a little bit of everything," the actor said in an interview. Stallone says he appreciates women because they "have a vast understanding of the way I think." They are, by chemical composition, more emotional, so they tend to be a little bit more compassionate, very work-oriented," he said. "I think women strive very hard to show that they certainly can carry on an endeavour that a man can. So I only benefit by being surrounded by these kinds of people." Stallone says he has never much recovered from his divorce from Nielsen and isn't trying to avoid any new commitment. "That comes along. I mean, 'what really, what else is there?'"

Onassis inspires walking tour

NEW YORK (AP) — Fans of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis are taking a 3.2 kilometre Sunday walk through the building where she lived, the churches where she worshipped and even the supermarket where her staff bought groceries. "She was always a popular woman on our celebrity homes tour," said Sam Stafford, founder of sidewalks of New York. He decided an all-Jackie walking tour was merited because of her 60th birthday and the new book about her. Other venues will include Onassis's florist, drugstore, bank and favourite shops: the Carlyle hotel, where president John F. Kennedy allegedly had trysts with Marilyn Monroe; the Pierre Hotel, where Aristotle Onassis kept a suite; and the homes of her daughter, Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, and other relatives. Stafford did exhaustive research

Singer blames job for bad family life

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — John Cougar Mellencamp blames his music career for his unstable family life. "I need to get out of this business for a while," said the Indiana-born singer, who has been in entertainment 14 years. "I've been beating my head against the wall since I was 23. I've got no family, no self-respect — I've put everything into the rock 'n' roll business. And don't think they're going to give me a crown for it in heaven either," he said. Mellencamp, who has three daughters, discussed his marital problems involving his current wife, Vicki, in a recent interview. Mellencamp and Vicki are separated.

School board unsure of Lowe

LOS ANGELES (AP) — School board members aren't sure they want actor Rob Lowe giving anti-drug lectures in classrooms under a court-ordered community service sentence. "We will want a guarantee for the parents of our children that children are protected," said Los Angeles Unified School District Board President Jackie Goldberg. "It appears on the surface he has a minimum, dubious judgment." Lowe, 25, was accused of sexual exploitation of a minor after he allegedly videotaped sexual encounters with a 16-year-old girl at an Atlanta hotel room in 1988. The actor agreed with the Fulton County court in Georgia to pay a \$100,000 fine and to serve 200 hours of community service, warning high school students of the dangers of drugs.

Global weather (major world cities)

| | MIN. | MAX. |
|--------------|------|------|
| AMSTERDAM | 17 | 23 |
| ATHENS | 21 | 30 |
| BANGKOK | 25 | 33 |
| Buenos Aires | 19 | 27 |
| Cairo | 24 | 37 |
| CHICAGO | 18 | 24 |
| COPENHAGEN | 12 | 17 |
| FRANKFURT | 10 | 16 |
| GENEVA | 10 | 16 |
| HONG KONG | 27 | 31 |
| ISTANBUL | 17 | 23 |
| LONDON | 15 | 20 |
| LOS ANGELES | 16 | 24 |
| MADRID | 20 | 27 |
| MEXICO | 27 | 34 |
| MONTREAL | 12 | 18 |
| MOSCOW | 13 | 19 |
| NEW DELHI | 26 | 34 |
| NEW YORK | 20 | 27 |
| PARIS | 16 | 21 |
| ROME | 14 | 27 |
| SIDNEY | 25 | 31 |
| TOKYO | 10 | 17 |
| VIENNA | 21 | 27 |

